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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

If you were to choose now, how would you vote on the initiative to allow the CNMI government to float a pension obligation bond?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Iraq-Bound

Saipan native Spc. James Kennedy DLG Benjamin deploys in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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Fundraiser

The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa teams up with KFC to raise funds for World Youth Day.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Waterlogged

Floods and landslides across Asia plunge millions into misery.

ASIA...Page 15

Borja gets top spot on 1-page Nov. ballot. PAGE 2
Juvenile suspect in Kagman rape to charged as an adult. PAGE 4



Police officer Christopher Leon Guerrero, left, gestures as he thanks his family and relatives for their prayers and support, outside the U.S. District Court in Garapan yesterday afternoon, after a jury found him not guilty in an extortion case. Also in photo is his attorney, David Banes, right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal jury yesterday found police officer Christopher Leon Guerrero not guilty of charges that he extorted money from illegal taxicab operators.

See NOT GUILTY on Page 4

Leon Guerrero not guilty

Man, 60, killed in car crash

» **3rd vehicular crash fatality in 2010**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 60-year-old man was killed when he lost control of the vehicle he was driv-

ing and slammed into a concrete sign at the Susupe Beach Park early Sunday morning.

Miguel Rangamar Fitial, of Gualo Rai, was pronounced dead by Dr. Shirish Balachandra at the Commonwealth Health Center at 3:25am.

See CAR CRASH on Page 4

Man drowns, another missing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man drowned while his companion is still missing while fishing at the cliff line of Naftan Point yesterday.

Sources at the Emergency Manage-

ment Office disclosed that the body of a Chinese male was recovered during a search-and-rescue operation conducted by Boating Safety Section officers around 2pm.

The officers, however, could not lo-

See DROWNS on Page 4

UNDER PROPOSED BUDGET PLAN

Lawmakers' annual office account soars from \$75,000 to \$155,000

» **Minority leader says it's 'crazy'**
» **Debate expected on budget bill today**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Each of the CNMI's 29 lawmakers will get \$155,000 a year in their "office account"—double the \$70,000 to \$80,000 that they currently receive—should the Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill becomes law in its current form.

The office account is on top of each lawmaker's annual salary of over

\$39,000, as well as their leadership and committee chairmanship accounts.

The proposed increase in lawmakers' annual office account is expected to be one of the sticky issues once Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) introduces his House Bill 17-96 in today's session.

House members said they expect debate on the bill, which reflects Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's proposed \$132,565

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4



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Local

Borja gets top spot on 1-page Nov. ballot

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board approved Friday a one-page layout for this year's election ballot, which will feature Democratic Party candidate Jesus Borja occupying the No. 1 spot among the four delegate bets.

In a Friday board meeting, the commissioners decided to use just the front page of the one-sheet ballot to avoid confusion among voters on Nov. 2.

Robert Guerrero, executive director of the Election Commission, recommended the

layout, believing it will satisfy voters.

In previous elections, the board adopted one-page back-back ballot format, reportedly confusing some voters who left the back page unfilled.

"This is so as not to leave any confusion with the voters. We will only use the front page of the ballot for both the delegate position and the initiatives," said board chair Frances Sablan.

In a lottery conducted Friday at the Election Commission office, the Democratic Party's Borja got the No. 1 spot on the ballot, followed by Covenant Party bet Joseph Camacho, in-

dependent candidate Gregorio Sablan, and Republican Party bet Juan N. Babauta.

Frances said each candidate was represented in Friday's lottery.

The upper part of the ballot will contain the names of the delegate candidates, while the bottom part of the page will have the three initiatives, answerable by a yes or no vote.

The legislative initiatives are:

■ House Legislative Initiative 16-13, which prohibits any increase in retirement benefits until all government obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund have been satisfied or the system is

fully funded;

■ House Legislative 16-18, which authorizes the Department of Public Lands to reserve up to 20 percent of its operational expense for land compensation payments; and

■ House Legislative Initiative 17-1, which wants to add a new Section 10 to Article X of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the Commonwealth to float a pension obligation bond to pay its debt to the Retirement Fund.

H.B. 16-13 and H.B. 16-18 were passed in October 2009, while H.B. 17-1 was approved by the Legislature on Aug. 2.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.



CJ Channel "O Shopping"

Next week CJ Channel "O Shopping" in Korea wraps its two-month home shopping promotion of tour packages to the Northern Marianas.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and its travel partners hope to reach over 500 package sales through the Saipan World Resort Gold package, which features four nights and five days in this island resort destination. The promotion was also featured in daily newspapers and on the Sejoong Tourmall website. The promotion is supported by the MVA, Saipan World Resort, Sejoong Tour Mall, and Asiana Airlines.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

The Android Leader



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Early voting eyed due to limited election budget

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is proposing an early voting system for the upcoming November election in line with efforts to cut costs.

Commission board chair Frances Sablan and executive director Robert Guerrero disclosed that the agency is now working with the Legislature to change some provisions of the existing election law to allow the early voting process.

Just last week, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed a bill that sought

Tinian gas supply back to normal

Tinian motorists started lining up at Mobil gasoline stations yesterday afternoon to fill their tanks, hours after a tanker came in yesterday morning to replenish the island's gasoline supply.

Tinian's gasoline shortage began late Friday morning because the monthly supply didn't come on time.

"Everything is now back to normal as far as gasoline supply is concerned," said Allen Sandbergem, the public information officer at the Tinian Mayor's Office.

This is the first in a long time that Tinian experienced a gasoline shortage. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

to reform the Commonwealth's election statutes to conform with federal requirements. House Bill 17-66 included a proposal for the early voting process. The commission and the Legislature are looking at a possible override of the governor's veto.

Under existing law, the Northern Islands is provided a 10-day window to participate in the election.

Guerrero said the commission proposes to change this to 30 days to give voters in the Northern Islands ample time to cast their ballots.

It was learned in Friday's

gasoline stations started pumping gasoline for customers around 2pm.

Hofsneider said Tinian residents were able to survive the weekend, despite the lack of regular gasoline.

Tinian still had a stable supply of diesel, though, which runs the power plant and fuels ambulances and fire trucks.

"But if there was emergency over the weekend, that could have been a different story," said Hofsneider, chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

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board meeting that the commission would be unable to charter a helicopter to the Northern Islands for this year's election due to its limited \$65,000 budget.

If the Legislature goes ahead with the override, Northern Island voters will have 30 days to cast their votes. This will give the commission more time to look for other ways to send their poll workers to the Northern Islands, in the event other agencies have no scheduled trips to the area within the 10-day period, according to Guerrero.

Every election, the commission spends about \$11,125 to fly poll workers to the Northern Islands.

The commission, Guerrero said, will collaborate with the

Northern Islands Mayor's Office to determine how many residents are expected to vote in the election.

Also contained in the vetoed legislation is a provision to change the language of the 10-day emergency voting period for Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Board chair Sablan said the bill seeks to change the term "emergency voting" to "early voting."

"Under the present law, the three islands have 10 days for emergency voting. What we are asking is to change the term 'emergency voting' to 'early voting' and spell out the reasons for 'emergency voting,'" she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that existing law just

states that anybody can come in and vote early.

The proposed polling places for the 10-day early voting are the Department of Public Safety offices on Rota and Tinian and the Election Commission's office on Saipan.

Guerrero and Sablan explained that DPS will keep the ballots during the early voting period and these would only be transferred to the commission for final counting after the election.

Both assured that the Office of the Public Auditor and the Election Commission will monitor and regularly check these election materials while in DPS jurisdiction.

Its limited budget for the

special November election has also prompted the election board to conduct manual counting of the votes.

To save on costs, the commission will also work with the Northern Marianas College with the printing of the materials that will be used to educate the public about the proposed three legislative initiatives.

The publication of the educational materials was originally pegged at \$15,000 for each initiative, for a total of \$45,000. With NMC's help, this will go down to just \$30,000 for all three initiatives.

Any remaining amount will be used for logistics, radios, rent-a-car service, meals, and poll workers' salaries.

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Monday, August 16 - Friday, August 20

Late Registration

Saturday, August 21

Student Orientation for New Students

Friday, August 20

9:00 am - 3:30 pm (NMC Library)

Student Orientation for International Students & Evening Students

Monday, August 23

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm (NMC Library)

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE:

August 6	Friday	8:00am-11:00am	Room D-1
August 10	Tuesday	1:00pm-4:00pm	Room D-1
August 11	Wednesday	1:00pm-4:00pm	Room D-1
August 12	Thursday	1:00pm-4:00pm	Room D-1
		5:00pm-8:00pm	Room D-1
August 18	Wednesday	9:00am-12:00pm	Room A-6/A-7

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE:

August 10	Tuesday	10:00am-12:00pm	Room A-5
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Room A-5
August 12	Thursday	10:00am-12:00pm	Room A-5
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Room A-5
August 19	Thursday	10:00am-12:00pm	Room A-5
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Room A-5
August 20	Friday	10:00am-12:00pm	Room A-5

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Juvenile suspect in Kagman rape to charged as an adult

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 17-year boy who is a suspect in the kidnapping and gang rape of a 16-year-old student in Kagman will be charged as an adult after a Superior Court judge approved the CNMI government's motion.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered yesterday that the criminal action filed against Alfred P. Hocog shall proceed against him as an adult.

Hocog, one of the four suspects arrested in the case, will turn 18 on Aug. 30. The *Saipan Tribune* usually does not identify juvenile victims and suspects but is identifying the suspect in this case as he will



Wiseman

be charged as an adult.

The judge ordered that Hocog be held at the adult prison facility but separated from the adult prison population.

Preliminary hearing for Hocog and co-defendant Joseph C. Camacho Jr. will be on Aug. 10, 2010 at 9am.

Wiseman said the law is clear that persons 16 or 17 years of age shall be charged as adults if they are facing murder or sexual assault charges.

The Office of the Attorney General had filed the amended information after Wiseman ruled Friday that the government must take some procedural steps, such as filing a mo-

tion, before the court could proceed against Hocog as an adult.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher had disagreed, prompting Wiseman to instruct the government to file something if they disagreed with the court's position. Gallagher filed a motion for reconsideration.

In granting the motion, Wiseman said based upon the government's brief as well as a more detailed review of Public Law 16-47, the court found that Hocog may be proceeded against as an adult.

Police arrested Hocog and co-defendant Camacho last week. Bail was set at \$100,000 cash each.

In her report, detective Melissa H. Bauleong stated that their investigation showed it was the juvenile who first beat up the victim and raped her.

where he was pronounced dead.

Blas said the vehicle had extensive damage to the front left, left rear, and right center.

Blas is the third vehicular accident fatality in the CNMI this year.

Last June 10, security guard Atanacio Tabuso Asuncion was killed when his pickup truck veered off As Perdido Road and collided with the gutter. Investigators had determined that speed was a factor in the accident.

Last Jan. 2, a 16-year-old girl was killed in a moped crash on Tinian. She was a passenger of a scooter being driven by a 16-year-old boy.

In 2009, six people were killed in vehicular crash incidents in the Commonwealth—all on Saipan.

The Department of Public Safety is expected to release more details about the incident today.

On Feb. 21, 2010 two men identified as James Ocha and Juan N. Dowai drowned while fishing in separate incidents at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa and at a Tanapag beach.

Last year, four persons drowned in the CNMI; all happened on Saipan.

the driver's criminal case.

In the second count, the extortion allegedly happened on June 13, 2009. Leon Guerrero allegedly knowingly used his position as a police officer to obtain money from the driver of an illegal taxicab in exchange for dismissing the driver's criminal case.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Leon Guerrero on Nov. 16, 2009. FBI special agent Haejun Park said Leon Guerrero used his official position at the Department of Public Safety to demand and receive payments ranging from \$300 to \$700 from drivers of illegal taxicabs in exchange for dismissing their criminal cases and returning to the drivers the seized vehicles.

Leon Guerrero pleaded not guilty. His defense was that he did not receive money and that while investigating the illegal taxicab operation he was after a "big fish"—a company that was involved in wider criminal activities, including peddling illegal drugs.

Bauleong said the incident happened in the morning of June 16, 2010 and Angel Jess Santos, a resident of Kagman III, was identified as one of the

suspects.

Santos, 21, was the first one arrested on June 18. Next was 33-year-old Ivan Castro.

Branch, but the budget bill reduced this to \$57.638 million.

Basa's bill gave the Judiciary \$3.311 million, more than Fitial's proposed \$2.97 million.

'Legislative Bureau funding'

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday he was the one who asked the Ways and Means Committee to give the Legislative Bureau director a maximum annual salary of just \$1.

The budget bill reflected a \$1.78 million appropriation for the bureau. Of this amount, \$1 is the maximum appropriation for the LB director's salary.

But the committee met again yesterday afternoon to make changes to the budget bill before it gets introduced today.

Basa said the committee decided to remove the \$1 appropriation for the LB director's salary, and leave it up to the director to allocate money for her salary from the \$1.78 million appropriated for the bureau.

Under Basa's bill, the \$1.78 million budget for the bureau will pay for its operation, as well as the salaries of its 33 full-time employees and director.

The House speaker said what he had really wanted is not to fund the bureau and let each individual lawmaker hire their own legislative personnel to help them—hence his proposal for each lawmaker's office account to be raised to the maximum of \$155,000 a year, from only \$70,000 to \$80,000.

"We cannot abolish the Legislative Bureau because it is mandated by the Constitution, but we can choose not to fund it," Tenorio said.

Rota, Tinian

Another sticky issue is the appropriations for Rota and Tinian. Basa's bill gave Rota and Tinian lower amounts than the governor's request.

Fitial asked for over \$6.256 million for Rota, but the budget bill only gave the island over \$6.024 million.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said she asked the Ways and Means Committee to stick to the governor's original proposal for Rota.

The committee agreed to do this for both Rota and Tinian after yesterday afternoon's meeting. Saipan municipality's budget under the bill is over \$1.047 million with 45 full-time employees.

'We have the vote'

The House speaker said the leadership has enough votes to pass Basa's budget bill during today's session.

"We have the votes to pass the budget bill in the House," he said.

Tenorio and Basa said the House Ways and Means Committee has 12 members who are expected to vote on the budget bill. The 20-member House only needs 11 votes to pass the bill.

Once the House passes the budget bill, it goes to the Senate.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that the Senate leadership expects to pass the budget bill "within two weeks after the House passes it."

ERRATUM

In Saturday's article "Memorial service at Tinian's A-bomb assembly pit," the CNMI and American anthems were sung by Ritalind Flores King, not Joelyn King. Our apologies.

CAR CRASH

From Page 1

Fitial sustained injuries in the head and chest, according to acting police spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. yesterday.

Blas said that speed was deemed a factor in the crash and that Fitial was also found not wearing any safety belts.

"Alcohol has not been ruled out as of this time. The case is still under investigation," Blas said.

The police received a call Sunday about a car crash along Beach Road in Susupe at 2:45am.

Blas said the crash happened at the southbound shoulder of Beach Road

by the northern entrance of the Susupe Beach Park.

Preliminary investigations conducted by Sgt. Anthony I. Macaranas showed that Fitial was traveling north along Beach Road aboard his red 2002 Toyota Highlander five-door wagon.

Fitial lost control of the vehicle as it went around the curve by the Mobil service station and collided with the concrete sign of Susupe Beach Park on the shoulder of the southbound lane.

"Due to the seriousness of the crash and injuries involved, traffic investigators and medics were summoned to the scene," Blas said.

Fitial was brought to the hospital

where he was pronounced dead.

Blas said the vehicle had extensive damage to the front left, left rear, and right center.

Fitial is the third vehicular accident fatality in the CNMI this year.

Last June 10, security guard Atanacio Tabuso Asuncion was killed when his pickup truck veered off As Perdido Road and collided with the gutter. Investigators had determined that speed was a factor in the accident.

Last Jan. 2, a 16-year-old girl was killed in a moped crash on Tinian. She was a passenger of a scooter being driven by a 16-year-old boy.

In 2009, six people were killed in vehicular crash incidents in the Commonwealth—all on Saipan.

to elaborate.

It was not clear how the victims fell into the water.

Sources said it was an EMO official who found the victim in the water below the cliff line.

As of late yesterday afternoon, DPS Boating Safety and EMO officers were still conducting a search-and-rescue operation at the Naftan Point area.

The Department of Public Safety is expected to release more details about the incident today.

On Feb. 21, 2010 two men identified as James Ocha and Juan N. Dowai drowned while fishing in separate incidents at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa and at a Tanapag beach.

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Leon Guerrero on Nov. 16, 2009. FBI special agent Haejun Park said Leon Guerrero used his official position at the Department of Public Safety to demand and receive payments ranging from \$300 to \$700 from drivers of illegal taxicabs in exchange for dismissing their criminal cases and returning to the drivers the seized vehicles.

Leon Guerrero pleaded not guilty. His defense was that he did not receive money and that while investigating the illegal taxicab operation he was after a "big fish"—a company that was involved in wider criminal activities, including peddling illegal drugs.

NOT GUILTY

From Page 1

Leon Guerrero smiled then shook hands with his counsel, David Banes, after a court staff read the jurors' verdict on two counts of extortion under color of official right.

Leon Guerrero later hugged his teary-eyed wife and children as well as some family members and friends who were in the court's gallery.

"It's the power of prayers," Leon Guerrero said.

"We were hopeful and our hopes were delivered," Banes said, who thanked the jurors for their time and consideration.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley told *Saipan Tribune* that they presented the facts and believe that these were sufficient to convict on both counts.

"I'm satisfied with the job that we did. We gave the jury... everything

that they needed to decide the case. And it's not my job to second guess the jury's decision," O'Malley said.

The 12 jurors began their deliberations on Friday and continued yesterday morning. They reached a unanimous verdict at 4:05pm.

A few minutes earlier, the jury informed U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge David O. Carter that they had reached a verdict on count one, but could not make a unanimous decision on count 2.

Upon discussing the issue with the defense and prosecution, Carter gave the jurors further instructions and asked them to continue their deliberations.

According to the second superseding indictment, Leon Guerrero committed extortion beginning on Sept. 15, 2009 through Oct. 9, 2009.

Leon Guerrero allegedly used his position as a police officer to obtain money from the driver of an illegal taxicab, in exchange for dismissing

the driver's criminal case.

In the second count, the extortion allegedly happened on June 13, 2009. Leon Guerrero allegedly knowingly used his position as a police officer to obtain money from the driver of an illegal taxicab in exchange for dismissing the driver's criminal case.

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LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

million for government operations in fiscal year 2010. The FY 2011 budget plan estimates total budgetary resources to reach \$149.171 million.

Failure to enact a budget before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1 will result in a government shutdown as a result of a constitutional amendment last year.

Basa, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, held off introducing the budget bill yesterday after committee members wanted last-minute changes in the appropriations for Rota, Tinian, and the Legislative Bureau, among other departments.

'That's crazy'

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said it is "not right to increase each lawmaker's office budget" when the revenues are down and all other government employees will be subjected to work and salary cuts.

"Increasing the amount to \$155,000 from \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year—that is so crazy. I can't believe the committee is trying to give lawmakers much more than what they're getting now, when the government is operating on a deficit and we ask employees to have a pay cut. ... We are able to operate on less than \$100,000 to operate our offices, and there's no need to increase it when we're asking employees for pay cut," Benavente said in an interview.

Benavente said as a former speaker, majority member, and now a minority leader, he knows the capabilities of each lawmaker to budget for their office or operational account. He is also a former lieutenant governor.

"I will make an attempt to remove the increase in lawmakers' office account and stick to the current amount during the session; in fact, lawmakers should get lesser than what they're getting now," he added.

This is among the reasons why the House Ways and Means Committee is proposing to give the Legislative Branch over \$8.585 million in FY 2011—a whopping increase from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's proposed \$4.219 million.

House floor leader George Camacho (Cov-Saipan) made it clear that each lawmaker will not be getting a salary increase; rather, it will be their individual office account that will be increased.

'Not surprising'

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration just received a copy of the latest version of the budget bill and is currently reviewing it.

"Surely, it does not come as a surprise to see a reduction in appropriation for the Executive Branch and a rather large increase for the [Legislature]. This disparity is definitely something that we will look into further should the bill pass the Legislature and be transmitted to the Office of the Governor," Demapan said.

Fitial submitted a budget of almost \$64.739 million for the Executive

Physician shortage at hospital down to just five

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
monethdeposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health

\$800K ARRA GRANT APPROVED

NMI hospital aims to create a health info exchange system

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Public Health will soon have an information exchange system that will benefit both health care providers and patients as physicians share important medical records that would prevent duplication of duties.

This came about after the department's application for \$800,000 grant under the American Recovery Reinvestment Act was approved.

Esther Muña, acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, confirmed yesterday that they have already received \$116,000 of the approved funding for the project's planning stage. The remaining funds will be made available once all requirements are met.

According to Muña, the CNMI proposes a cooperative agreement with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology to enable the CNMI to develop and implement plans for a health information exchange capability. The plan will address how CNMI health care providers will be able to electronically share information with providers, laboratories, pharmacies, and

insurers in the CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii.

She said the overall goal of the agreement is to improve clinical care and patient safety, health care system efficiency, and public health reporting through secure sharing and exchange of health information while enforcing the privacy of health information.

Muna said there are two phases for the project: Phase 1 is the planning phase. Hospital officials and CNMI health care providers met last week as part of this phase.

"We're targeting to complete the CNMI-wide strategic plan to turn in by end of this month," said Muña.

Phase II is the implementation stage.

Muna explained that the remaining \$763,000 funding (from the original \$800,000) will be divided into four years.

For the first year of the grant, local matching fund is waived, she said. For the second year, DPH is required a 10-percent matching fund. This will go up to 30 percent in the third year, and to 70 percent in the fourth year.

Muña pointed out, though, that these local matching funds could be provided in in-kind services.

» Off-island recruitment this month

newly approved J-1 visa waiver that allows it to bring in non-U.S. national doctors.

According to Esther Muña, acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, the hospital used to be in dire need of over 10 physicians but new recruits have cut this down to just five.

To further sustain the workforce needs of the hospital, Dr. Chad Lowe will be sent to Atlanta, Georgia this month to recruit more doctors and to learn more about the J-1 visa waiver processing for the CNMI.

Muña said this off-island hiring is for the hospital's current and future staffing needs.

Lowe, a National Health Service scholar and CHC's contact person for J-1 visa applicants, will fly on Aug. 24, Muña said yesterday. His travel will be funded by federal grants.

Muña said that CHC's emergency room, which already has four doctors, still needs one more. Two physician assistants are also needed for the hospital's emergency room, she added.

The surgery unit needs one more doctor to bring the unit's current number to two; while two more doctors are needed for the pediatric section.

Muña said CHC also approved one doctor for internal medicine; this will bring the IM's total to five.

Other sections and units are performing well with their present number of physicians, such as the OB-gyne section, which is doing well with two doctors, she said.

As of June this year, CHC had 24 active physicians, not including the expected hires during summer. Among them are two doctors for the nephrology section.

Muña said that hiring additional doctors would greatly help improve the hospital's service. She credited the existing physicians for their dedication and patience in meeting all of their patients' needs.

The hospital was recently approved a J-1 visa waiver so it could recruit non-U.S. nationals to address the continuous shortage of doctors on island.

Saipan Tribune learned that CHC has also made progress in moving away from its heavy dependence on locums—short-

term contract doctors—with only two at present. Locums are hired for just three months to one year.

It was earlier learned that the hospital was incurring a huge cost for locums. *Saipan Tribune* learned that in one locum specialty, CHC pays approximately \$194,557 in salary and benefit contributions but then pays \$10,560 for furnished housing and ground transportation, for a total cost of \$205,117.

For the same specialty but on a long-term contract, CHC pays \$157,382 in salary and benefit contributions and pays up to an additional \$9,600 for housing alone, for a total of \$166,982.

The difference is \$38,135. This figure does not include the administrative costs of processing a newly hired physician, such as costs from human resources to finance and accounting.



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Lawmakers question Fitial administration's continued hiring

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Republican members of the House questioned anew the Fitial administration's hiring certifications for what they deem non-essential positions at a time when the government is in financial crisis.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) pointed out that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's latest certifications to hire an administrative officer III and administrative officer I for the Division of Agriculture and a special assistant to the Commerce secretary do not seem to be critical and should not be allowed.

"This body is reviewing the

budget and it should question these hirings," he said during yesterday's House session.

A notice of "exception to hiring freeze" from Commerce Secretary Michael Ada indicated that the special assistant to the secretary will be paid an annual salary of \$40,000.

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said Public Law 17-6 requires the written approval of the presiding officers of the Legislature for every non-critical position to be filled.

This law authorized the governor to reprogram up to \$10 million in Fiscal Year 2010 to ensure that payroll is not delayed, among other things.

Benavente asked House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) yesterday whether he had received any request from the Fitial administration to approve the hiring of individuals since the new law was enacted.

"I am requesting your office to review if these positions were filled without written approval from your office. If they're filled without your approval, then they were in violation of the law," Benavente told Tenorio.

The House speaker said he has not received any request for hiring approval from the administration, and said he will look into this. The House legal

counsels also said they will discuss this with the Office of the Attorney General.

Fitial had other hiring certifications for employees at the Department of Public Health and for corrections workers. House members did not question these as they believe these positions are critical.

Tinian also sought the approval of the House speaker and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) for the hiring of one administrative specialist 1 for the Department of Public Works on Tinian.

DPW-Tinian resident department head Francisco A. Hocog and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said DPW-Tinian does not

have any administrative support staff—whether a secretary, a receptionist/clerk, or an administrative officer—to do administrative duties.

"It is obvious that our department is now at a critical point and the hiring of one administrative specialist 1 is indeed needed for our department to function accordingly," they

said, adding that the employee should be receiving an annual salary of \$19,272.74.

The Department of Finance on Tinian also sought exemptions from the hiring freeze to be able to re-employ an accountant 1, to be paid an annual salary of \$28,807.98, and a revenue officer 1 for an annual salary of \$18,584.42.

Four arrested for allegedly kidnapping, beating up man

A man sustained multiple injuries after four persons, including his wife, allegedly forcibly brought him to a house in Kagman III where they beat him up Wednesday morning.

The three women told Narayan Sarkar to get inside their vehicle but he refused. Camacho allegedly pushed Narayan Sarkar into the right rear passenger seat of the car.

Police said the victim, Narayan Sarkar, had a cut on his lower lip, bruises under his left eye, and lacerations on his forehead, left eyebrow, and chest. The suspects—Francisco M. Tydingco, 41; Audrey T. Camacho, 29; Bernadita T. Sarkar, 48; and Cindy R. Aquino, 22—were arrested over the weekend. They were taken to the Superior Court yesterday for their initial appearance.

Tydingco was arrested for assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Camacho was held for kidnapping, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Bernadita Sarkar and Aquino were arrested for kidnapping, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Bail was set at \$20,000 cash each for Tydingco and Camacho, \$10,000 cash for Bernadita Sarkar, and \$10,000 unsecured bond for Aquino.

In his report, detective Sabino P. Cabrera said that police officers had responded to a report of a disturbance at the CYC Store in Kagman on Aug. 4, at 11:05am. When a police officer arrived at the store, he met Narayan Sarkar, who had multiple injuries on his face and chest.

Cabrera said that, according to the victim, he was at his

home in San Antonio when his wife, Bernadita Sarkar, arrived with her stepdaughter Camacho, and Aquino.

The three women told Narayan Sarkar to get inside their vehicle but he refused. Camacho allegedly pushed Narayan Sarkar into the right rear passenger seat of the car.

As Aquino was driving the vehicle, Camacho allegedly hit the victim on the face with sandals and punched him on the face several times. At the same time, Aquino and Bernadita Sarkar were allegedly yelling and cussing at the victim.

The three women were reportedly demanding money from the victim.

Aquino then drove the vehicle to the house of Bernadita Sarkar's brother, Tydingco, in Kagman where Bernadita Sarkar talked to her brother. Tydingco, with his 1-year-old son in tow, followed them on his car back to Bernadita Sarkar's house in Kagman III.

While there, Tydingco allegedly punched the victim on the chest. When he fell on the floor, Tydingco again allegedly kicked him on the chest. The three women then kicked and slapped the victim several times, Cabrera said.

Tydingco was about to hit the victim with a four-foot metal object but his sister stopped him.

The four then left the victim inside the house. The victim managed to walk toward CYC Store where he called 911 for assistance. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Navy begins observing water conservation measures

SANTA RITA, Guam—Due to the Fena reservoir level being now five feet below the 10-year average, Water Conservation Level III has been declared on Naval Base Guam.

This is a precaution, not an emergency, said Naval Base Guam executive officer Cmdr. Kevin Gillam. It is a procedure the Navy follows in the earliest stages of low reservoir levels.

Naval Base Guam personnel and their families have been directed to observe water conservation measures.

According to Gillam, all car-washing on base is prohibited as is flushing decks and driveways. Lawn watering is restricted to no more than one

CNMI librarians learn how to make libraries relevant to the times



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Participants in the Strategic Learning Communities workshop pose for a group photo yesterday. Also in photo are Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales, and trainors Jane Barnwell and Mathew Bellhouse-King of the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning. The weeklong workshop is sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by PREL.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A weeklong workshop that aims to promote professional development among librarians in the CNMI begins today.

Sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Strategic Learning Communities is a three-year training, technical assistance, and capacity building project administered by the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning throughout its service regions.

These areas include the CNMI, Palau, Guam, Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap, Pohnpei, American Samoa, and the Marshall Islands.

About 20 library staff from Saipan, Tinian and Rota have signed up for the workshop, which is facilitated by PREL Library and Information Literacy Initiatives director Jane Barnwell and research specialist Mathew Bellhouse-King.

According to Barnwell, the program seeks to provide an array of training modules that

would meet the specific needs of each community.

"The modules for the CNMI is not the same as it is [in] Guam or any other island," she said, adding that there are places in the CNMI where there is a strong contingent of school library participation and representation.

During the workshop, Barnwell will discuss a wide range of topics, including leadership in libraries, compelling library programming in schools, collaborative lessons in the school library, information literacy, and library grant writing strategies.

"We will talk about activities that don't take a lot of expensive resources for engaging students in promoting literacy," she said.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, who attended the first day of the workshop, expressed her appreciation to all the library staff who showed their commitment to their libraries by signing up for the workshop.

Sablan expressed her visions

for the libraries in the CNMI and for its personnel, which include the professional and long-term growth of library professionals through a master's program, to have well-equipped libraries, and to have active engagement in libraries where students are not restricted or limited access.

"Librarians are also classified as teachers," said Sablan, adding that librarians should ask what they can do and where they need to go to make things happen for CNMI libraries.

Challenges

Although Barnwell lauded library personnel in the CNMI whom she described as "so incredibly dedicated," she said there is a need for constant training in the Commonwealth because of the turnover of staff.

"Staff come and go. Sometimes, it's hard to sustain that positive energy. Unfortunately, there's nothing you can really do about that," she said.

Barnwell also noted the challenge of keeping up with technology—vital to learning

centers like libraries.

According to Barnwell, technology has revolutionized libraries, making things very different now.

"I think libraries had begun to understand their role as community centers and as places to promote lifelong learning whether through reading or other activities," she said.

Barnwell also commended the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for having emerged as a leader on library development not only on Saipan but in the Pacific region as well.

"They're a leader in the region...which is very important to regional library development, to have those libraries that you can look to for model programs," she said.

Aside from the subjects learned by the workshop participants, Barnwell said the Strategic Learning Communities project provides the library staff an opportunity for relationship and network building. "With that, they know they have a network they can go to for help," she said.

hour only between the hours of 7pm and 8am.

Other water conservation measures include operating washing machines and dishwashers only when full, placing a clean trash container under roof eaves to collect rainwater for watering plants, washing cars, etc., and reporting any plumbing leaks for repair as quickly as possible.

The water conservation directives given Navy personnel, said Gillam, are appropriate for all Guam residents during the slow start into this year's rainy season, especially the residents of the southern villages whose water source is the Fena reservoir. (PR)

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A zoologist who visited Saipan for the first time said investigating incidents of marine mammals being stranded on beaches or shallow waters is important since a lot of information can be gleaned from these stranding investigations.

Dr. Charles W. Potter, marine mammals collection manager of the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.,

'Strandings are a measure of marine environment's health'

said that strandings help ascertain not just the health of the affected marine mammal but also the wellbeing of the marine environment.

Potter was on Saipan Saturday and did a presentation about stranded marine mammals at the Coastal Resources Management Office along Middle Road.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service website, strandings occur when ma-

rine mammals swim or float into shore and become "beached" or stuck in shallow water. Some identified causes of strandings include disease, parasite infestation, harmful algal blooms, injuries due to ship strikes or fishery entanglements, pollution exposure, trauma, and starvation.

According to Potter, there had



Potter

been reported strandings in the region affecting medium and large-sized whales and dolphins.

"We're finding that these animals also can be used to monitor not just the health of the animals themselves but the health of the marine ecosystem and the health of the marine environment," he said.

Potter said he is also particu-

larly concerned about the emerging diseases or pathogens showing up in these marine creatures' populations, which are also mammals, just like humans.

"That should be a real concern to us," he said.

Potter said the CNMI has "a tremendous amount of resources" to develop a program that would address the issue of stranded animals.

"There's nothing I think that can't be done here in Saipan... You got it all right here. It's just coordinating, it's just recogniz-

ing who's out there and who's interested," he added.

Potter, who is on Saipan for the first time, described the island as "gorgeous." "It looks like one of the best kept secrets in the Pacific," he said.

Potter also visited Guam with Dr. Kristi West of the College of Natural and Computational Sciences of the Hawaii Pacific University.

He and West conducted lectures and necropsy classes or post-mortem evaluation of animals on Guam.

Zoning now uses revised Record of Zoning Inquiry form

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since Aug. 4, the Saipan Zoning Office has been using their revised Record of Zoning Inquiry form.

Modifying forms is part of streamlining the zoning office, according to administrator

Douglas Wyatt.

"We're trying to streamline the number of forms in this office and we're trying to streamline our processes," he said.

If the business license renewal applicant does not propose any new development on the said business, Wyatt said they only need to verify the zoning

and that the land use of the business is correct.

In the past, the zoning office charges \$30 for the Record of Zoning Inquiry form, which is needed for renewal of business licenses on Saipan.

With the new form, Wyatt said they no longer charge the \$30 fee.

"Typically, at least on the mainland, that kind of information is given very freely. You can come in to the office and you can find out your zoning whether a given use would be allowed in that district," he added.

"I think the public likes it," Wyatt added.

Gigi Zapanta, who submitted a license renewal application for a non-profit organization yester-

day, told *Saipan Tribune* she did not feel the effect of the use of the new form.

"The process is easy as long as you have all the requirements needed to renew your license," said Zapanta who has been dealing with their organization's license renewal for two years now.

Gina Yu, who handles the business license renewal application of a document handling

company, said she always has a hard time when she goes to the zoning office.

According to Yu, the zoning office always changes their forms which makes it very confusing for business and gives them a hard time.

Wyatt said they will also determine whether or not to amend other forms such as the nonconforming use.

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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB 2010-004 (REBID)

This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Rota

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide ground maintenance services for its properties in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan or at its Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, beginning Tuesday, August 10, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., during regular business hours, except CNMI holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Tamara and Seven Brothers Enterprises Building in Songsong Village on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivision and other properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2010-004 (REBID)**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Wednesday, September 15, 2010**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Wednesday, September 15, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Wednesday, September 15, 2010**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **September 22, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m., local time, September 23, 2010**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Wednesday, September 15, 2010**.

MHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/
MARCI M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, Procurement & Supply



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB 2010-008 - TINIAN

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

Building Maintenance of Section 8 Housing Units in Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its Section 8 Housing Units in Tinian.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at any of the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan or San Jose Village, Tinian, beginning Wednesday, August 11, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on the Island Tinian. The Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village at 10:30 a.m. on **Thursday, September 9, 2010**. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **"NMHC IFB 2010-008 - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (TINIAN)"**. An original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 am, September 16, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, **September 16, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, the official government postal service of a foreign country, or a commercial courier, no later than **September 16, 2010**, and must be received no later than September 23, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 am, local time **September 24, 2010**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 am, local time on **September 16, 2010**.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of \$7.50 per hour.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority business and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible" take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota and Tinian.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, via email to jskaipat@nmhcgov.net or facsimile at (670) 234-9021.

/s/
MARCI M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, Procurement & Supply



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Kilili: PSS to get \$8.3M more in federal funds

Medicaid bridge funding: \$768,000

Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said yesterday that the House of Representatives was being reassembled in Washington, D.C. to take a final vote on legislation providing an extra \$10 billion for schools nationwide and \$16 billion for Medicaid funding.

The Northern Marianas Public School System should receive about \$8.3 million from the special appropriation. The legislation will also provide the Commonwealth with bridge funding for its Medicaid program to cover the gap between the end of Recovery Act increases this year and the beginning of health care reform increases next year.

"[PSS] will get about \$8.3 million," Sablan said. "And the money could not be coming at a better time: school is opening and PSS faces a \$7 million reduction in local funding."

There will also be about \$768,000 in federal Medicaid funding for the CNMI, he said. "This is legislation that we in the Democratic Caucus have been working on for several months," he added.

"I was one of 21 original co-sponsors of H.R. 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act, which was introduced with this emergency school funding in March. But the other side has been blocking it every step of the way."

House leaders decided to take action after two Senate Republicans broke ranks with the rest of their party and decided to vote to help schools and those who depend on Medicaid for health care. Sens. Olympia Snow and Susan Collins, both of Maine, voted to end debate on H.R. 1586 on Wednesday. The bill had been amended with the ad-



Sablan

ditional school and Medicaid money. The two then joined Democrats and Independents in the Senate to pass the measure, 61-38.

H.R. 1586 now returns to the House for final approval on Tuesday before being sent to the President for signature.

Sablan said he had considered returning to the capital, but because the bill will not be amended at this point in the legislative process he is not required to vote.

"The funding for the Northern Marianas is in the legislation and has been since we first introduced it in March. Nothing will change that," he said. "It is certainly a moment of accomplishment for our Democratic Caucus, particularly for Appropriations Chairman David Obey, who is retiring this year. It would be a feel-good opportunity, but, frankly, the work is done. The benefits for the Northern Marianas are secure."

PSS is looking at a shortfall of about \$7 million this year because of cuts in local funding. PSS officials met with Sablan's staff last week in Washington, D.C. to discuss actions the school system would need to take without the additional fed-

eral funds. PSS was faced with the choice between staff layoffs and cuts in school improvements that are being made with Recovery Act funds Congress appropriated last year.

"Our educational system will continue to face difficult choices in the years ahead," Sablan said. "But at least this special appropriation will give the Board of Education, the PSS leadership, school principals and teachers a little more flexibility going forward. We simply must continue to do everything we can to protect our schools."

This special supplemental appropriation for education has been bouncing back and forth between the House and the Senate for several months. "There is strong support from Democrats in the House," Sablan said, "but Senate Republicans blocked the bill."

"Every penny of the \$10 billion is offset by rescission of appropriations from the Recovery Act and elsewhere in the budget, so that there is no additional debt being incurred," Sablan said. "The legislation is highly responsible, both from an educational point of view and from a fiscal point of view."

Another \$768,000 for Medicaid

The bill also addresses a problem in federal Medicaid funding. There is a six-month funding drop in funding that the bill will fill with about \$768,000 more in Medicaid for the CNMI.

"In the Recovery Act we provided a 30-percent increase for the Northern Marianas and other U.S. territories' federal Medicaid grants," said Sablan.

The Recovery Act in its original form only included a 15-percent increase, but Sablan and other territorial representatives

worked hard in the scramble to put the bill together, and succeeded at doubling the increase for their territories.

"But that increase, which was a temporary response to the recession and the loss of revenue state and territorial governments were facing, ends at the end of this year," he said.

"In the health care reform we passed in March, which is the more long-term policy response to our Medicaid needs, there is a series of increases in Medicaid funding starting July 1, 2011. So we have a six-month break between those two programs."

"H.R. 1586 will plug the gap, so that the Northern Marianas will not see any decrease in Medicaid between the time the Recovery Act ends and health care reform begins."

"We avoided the disruption and will also get another three-quarters of a million dollars for health care for low income families here in the Commonwealth," said Sablan.

The 30-percent Medicaid increase in the Recovery Act boosted the federal grant to the NMI from \$5.12 million in 2008 to about \$6.65 million this year.

The Medicaid increases scheduled to begin in 2011 under health care reform will raise the allowable annual amount to approximately \$21 million in 2019—four times what the Commonwealth was previously receiving.

Once the House acts on Tuesday, H.R. 1586 will go to President Obama for signature. The President has already voiced his full support. Distribution of funds is expected to proceed relatively quickly to help schools around the country, which are set to open over the next several weeks. (PR)

Limes back with Zoning Board for another term

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Retired educator Joe Limes is back to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Zoning Board for another term.

Limes last served the board under official capacity in May. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial re-appointed him to the position in June, subject to the confirmation of the Third Senatorial District Legislative Delegation.

Limes attended his first board meeting on Aug. 5, 2010, and will serve another two-year term with the board.

Limes, who served as treasurer for the board during his first term, said the board has been working hard to help the community and the businesses on

island and make Saipan more beautiful.

"I'm looking forward to helping the community so that we can make our island more beautiful and sellable for businesses and to attract tourists," Limes told Saipan Tribune after their board meeting.

Limes said he is very eager to be part of the board which will review and amend accordingly the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

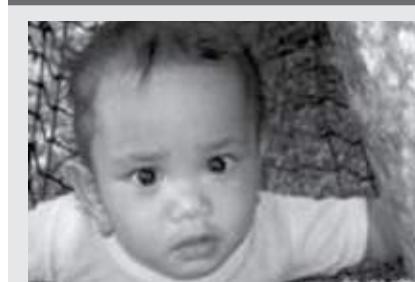
"It's very interesting to be

part of this. I am learning at the same time," said Limes, adding that the community should work together in making the amendments to and complying with the regulations.

Limes has been a retired educator since 1995. He is also the chairman of the Library Council and the Youth Advisory Council.

According to Limes, he serves on these ruling bodies to help the community.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 2nd birthday to baby girl Rehannna-Mae Amaya Igisair John, who celebrated her special day on Aug. 7, 2010. We love very much! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy and the whole family.

Avail of refundable tax credits

The Division of Revenue and Taxation has been receiving inquiries on the stimulus refund under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Making Work Pay Credit and the American Opportunity Tax Credit (education credits) under ARRA are refundable tax credits available to eligible taxpayer for the tax year 2009 and 2010. Most earners are eligible to take this credit. To claim these credits, you must complete Schedule M (Making Work Pay and Government Retiree Credits) for MWPC or Form 8863 (American Opportunity, Hope, and Lifetime Learning Credits) for the Education credits and enter

your computed credit on the tax return.

The division is holding an MWPC assistance until Aug. 13, from 8am to 11am and 1pm to 4pm each day. MWPC and education credits assistance will be held in Room 29, 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan. If you are in doubt whether you are eligible to claim the credit or whether you didn't claim the credit, you should visit Division of Revenue and Taxation.

For more information on these tax credits, access DOF's website at www.cnmidof.net or contact Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 10, 1999

All is well for school opening

Except for "minor glitches," the opening of classes went smooth in public schools yesterday, according to administrators. Public schools do not have to deal with teacher shortage and overcrowding in classrooms, problems which worried the Public School System in the past school years. Education officials said the job fair held by PSS last June provided enough teachers to fill 76 positions left vacant by those who resigned and retired late last year. The new school in Dandan and the new classrooms in other public schools have eased the problem of overcrowding, administrators said.

Law allows DPH to realign funds for medical referral

The government yesterday granted authority to Public Health Sec. Joseph Kevin Villagomez to tap available resources from the department to fund anticipated shortfall in the medical referral program. Acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan signed into law a measure passed by the Legislature last month which provides for the reprogramming authority to the secretary in order to prevent a budget deficit under the program for the next two months or until the end of Fiscal 1999 in Sept. 30. "This legislation would assist the Department of Public Health to settle outstanding and projected Medical Referral Program's financial obligations," he said in signing Public Law 11-91. There is no information, however, how much the shortfall would amount, although DPH officials have said the department does not have enough money to address its immediate needs.

Aug. 10, 2000

Bill easing licensing of foreign doctors scrapped

The House of Representatives yesterday scrapped legislation seeking to grant temporary permit to foreign doctors to practice in the CNMI, claiming medical practitioners based on the islands are competent to meet the needs of anticipated retirement communities here. A report by the House Committee on Health and Welfare said the present licensing scheme for doctors has enough safeguards against medical fraud and injury that ensure effective delivery of health care to residents and visitors. While praising the effort to provide much-needed services to foreign retirees who may want to settle here, the committee believed giving exemption to doctors catering to this particular group is not proper.

\$600K earmarked for Saipan infrastructure projects

Over \$600,000 were earmarked by the House of Representatives for various infrastructure projects on Saipan under three appropriation bills passed during the second day of its second regular session. The biggest chunk of the funding will go to construction of covered sidewalks in full compliance with federal accessibility standards for Garapan and Oleai Elementary Schools. The plan will cost \$300,000 in government funds coming from re-appropriation of remaining balance from earlier capital improvement projects. Another \$310,000 in CIP funding balance will also be shifted to finance much-needed infrastructure projects in Kagman, San Vicente, Koblerville and San Antonio, such as a public toilet and completion of a baseball field.

Aug. 10, 2001

NMI expects additional revenues from seminars

Hundreds of visitors are expected to arrive on Saipan until the weekend, as the CNMI hosts two separate international conferences that may help pump in close to a million dollars to the islands' ailing economy in just a span of one week. Government officials projected an inflow of some \$700,000 next week from the 400 delegates and guests participating in the Pacific Judicial Conference and the 10th Pacific Power Association Conference and Trade Exhibition. The activities for both international meet are scheduled to commence on Sunday, August 12. The \$700,000 projection is conservative, assuming that the delegates do not bring with them any companion, a government official said.

Redundant patients' rights measure junked

A Senate bill that was intended to safeguard patients from the unnecessary disclosure of their health status has been disapproved by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for being redundant. In a letter addressed to Senate President Paul A. Manglona and House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, Tenorio said he decided to veto the measure as it is identical to the recently adopted Rules and Regulations governing the release and maintenance of patient health care information. "I have been informed by the Secretary of Public Health that he had requested the Legislature from passing this bill as it would affect the operations of the department," Tenorio said.

Saipan to host US Coral Reef Task Force meeting

One of the foremost policy groups guiding national and international coral reef conservation will convene in Saipan this September for the 2010 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

'Eco-tourism: Good for NMI?'

A talk on "Eco-tourism: Good for the CNMI?" will be presented by Stacey A. Tighe on Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park auditorium. She will discuss costs and benefits of alternative options, and their compatibility, feasibility in the CNMI. Tighe holds degrees in marine policy, biology and geology, and currently serves as senior regional coordinator and program integrator for U.S. support to the six countries of the Coral Triangle Initiative (Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands). (PR)

NMC Professional Development days this week

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in professional development activities from 8am to 1pm on Aug. 10, 11, and 12. Various NMC offices will be closed at these times.

Scheduled placement tests will proceed as originally scheduled. Normal operations will resume in the afternoon beginning at 1pm on the dates noted. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding. For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

SVES sets parent orientation

This is to inform parents and guardians of students at San Vicente Elementary School that the parent orientation for school year 2010-2011 is on Friday, Sept. 3, 2010, from 9am to 12pm. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend. The meeting will take place in the following classrooms:

- Kindergarten, J-24
- First grade, K-25
- Second grade, E-15
- Third grade, K-29
- Fourth grade, B-6
- Fifth grade, A-1
- Sixth grade, A-7

PAWS meeting this week

There will be a PAWS meeting on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2010, at 5:30pm at the Shenanigans in Garapan. The group will discuss what's happened since the last meeting as well as proposed future events. Members will also say goodbye to president Katie Busenkell.

Note: Shenanigans asks that we not park next to the front of the restaurant, leaving those spaces for their regular customers. (PR)

The 24th meeting of the task force will take place Sept. 15 and 16 at the Saipan World Resort. Hosting the meeting provides an opportunity for the region to highlight the coral reef conservation work underway throughout the Marianas and Micronesia, including watershed restoration projects and climate change adaptation strategies.

The meeting will highlight the Micronesia Challenge, a

commitment made by regional leadership to effectively conserve at least 30 percent of the near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said is very pleased that the task force had accepted his invitation to hold their annual meeting in Saipan. Fitial had extended the

invitation during a previous meeting with key officials in the nation's capital.

ON THE NET

■ <http://coralreef.gov/>

"I am sincerely grateful and elated that the task force will be coming this way in September. This is a great opportunity for our islands to showcase the conservation efforts being implemented locally," Fitial.

Before the meeting, task

force members are slated to visit militarization sites in Guam. Afterward, members will head to Pohnpei for meetings with President Emanuel Mori. They will tour Nett Municipality's watershed and water quality project.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force was established in 1998 by presidential executive order to lead U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems. The task force represents

12 federal agencies, and seven governors from the territory of Guam, State of Hawaii, State of Florida, territory of American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and affiliate members include the three Freely Associated States. The task force helps build partnerships, strategies, and support for on-the-ground action to conserve coral reefs. (DEQ)

serves his local community as a Health and Safety Coordinator for the American Red Cross NMI Chapter.

Juan Diego V. Tenorio, acting executive director of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, said Kennedy has been with the chapter for about four years.

"He's done an awesome job in his time here. When he gets called to active duty, we fully support that move. We're a huge supporter of the ESGR. We honor Kennedy's commitment to the US Armed Forces. We pray for his safe return back home since he has a family waiting for him here. He'll do well in his assignment. We encourage everybody to pray for the safety of all service men and women. Everybody from American Red Cross is praying for his safe return."

The 305th MPAD is a subordinate unit of the 9th Mission Support Command, which is based at Fort Shafter Flats, Honolulu, Hawaii. (With *Clarissa David*)

Saipan native deploys in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

By CHRISTINA DOUGLAS
9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii—Saipan native Spc. James Kennedy DLG Benjamin was one of 20 soldiers honored in the U.S. Army Reserve's 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment deployment ceremony here on Sunday in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The detachment is scheduled to deploy to Iraq this month to provide critical public affairs support as U.S. Forces Iraq transitions from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn. This transition, which is slated for Sept. 1, will signify the end of combat operations and the beginning of stability operations.

Benjamin, a three-year veteran, is looking forward to serving his country during the unit's yearlong tour.

"Since I began my career in the military, I have constantly been training to serve my island and country," said Benjamin.

"I have been trained by



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spc. James Kennedy D.L.G. Benjamin embraces his fiancée, Maria Elizabeth S. Igitol, and 8-month-old daughter, Marlaina Kenzie following the 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment's deployment ceremony at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii on Aug. 8.

the world's greatest Army. I feel confident that I will go and accomplish my mission."

Although Benjamin is proud to serve, he is sad to leave his fiancée, Maria Elizabeth S. Igitol,

and his three children: Maria, Angelo, and Marlaina.

"My family is the driving force that keeps me going. They are the reason I continue to do the things I do in the mili-

tary. I will miss them while I am away. My family will be in my thoughts and prayers every day," he said.

When he's not wearing an Army uniform, Benjamin

21 complete child care training by NMC, DCCA



Staff members of the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute and the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs pose for a group photo with the 21 participants of the Infant & Toddler Care Training program. The participants were awarded certificates of competence after completing the three-month long professional training program on infant and toddler child care.

NMC

The second cohort of three groups of caretakers from various child daycares around the CNMI recently completed a professional development training program facilitated by the Northern Marianas College.

NMC's Community Development Institute awarded 21 participants certificates of completion in the Infant & Toddler Care Training Program on July 23, 2010 at NMC As Terlaje campus in Room D-1.

The program was offered through an agreement between the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Child Care Program and NMC's Community Development Institute, a program under NMC's Division of Community Programs and Services that also offers a variety of other developmental courses in a range of fields.

"I am proud that these individuals have taken the initiative to enhance their professional skills and knowledge

in child care," said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera. "I am also glad that this program will help them improve child care services and programs in the CNMI."

The 21 participants from the second cohort successfully completed a total of 70 hours of instruction during the three-month long program. Topics that were covered include social-emotional growth and socialization, group care, learning and

development, cultural and familial issues, and health and safety considerations.

"I would like to thank the staff of DCCA and CDI for all the hard work they have put into carrying out the program," said DCCA Secretary Melvin O. Faisao. "I also encourage other agencies and individuals to look to NMC for their professional and training needs."

The third cohort of the program is scheduled to begin later this month. (NMC)

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

WikiLeaks and a journalism 'shield law'

For years, members of Congress have tied themselves in knots trying to figure out how to pass a "shield law" that allows journalists to protect the identities of sources without giving anything to journalists whom those same members do not like or appreciate. Lawmakers recognize the value of protecting sources when they disclose the Pentagon Papers or details about Watergate, but they're less keen on those who reveal corporate secrets or classified documents about wars they support. Now, with a shield law poised for approval, the WikiLeaks disclosures of classified material from Afghanistan have reinforced the timidity that has delayed this legislation for too long.

Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., summed up the latest setback when he explained that he wanted to make sure that the right to protect sources of confidential information would not apply to "organizations like WikiLeaks," which exists to publish materials not authorized for release. That's perhaps understandable; members of Congress were hardly alone in being troubled by the notion that secret military documents could pop up on the Internet. But Schumer's statement betrays the problem: What is an "organization like" WikiLeaks? *The New York Times* published some of those same documents on its website. Does that make it "like" WikiLeaks?

Journalism is fast-changing, and Congress is slow-moving. One consequence is that the more Congress attempts to define journalism, the more anachronistic Congress becomes. Rather than trying to figure out who should be protected and who should not, Congress should focus on what it is trying to accomplish—namely, to preserve for citizens of this democracy the information they need to govern themselves, information that sometimes only becomes public if those who have it can supply it anonymously. The bill as written does not permit every leaker to escape punishment; it merely requires judges to balance the interest of protecting a source against the public's interest in the information sought, and it specifically creates a national security exception. Those compromises already go far—too far, in our view—to toward intimidating sources, but they provide more than enough protection for what Schumer and his allies, including Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., fear.

Finally, there is this: Conventional news organizations of the types that Schumer, Feinstein and others want to protect—this one, for example—generally know the sources who supply sensitive information. WikiLeaks apparently does not. If, then, Congress fails to enact a shield law, sources who want to remain anonymous will be safer turning over material to WikiLeaks than to *The New York Times* or CNN or *Slate* or any other news outlet of the type Schumer and Feinstein want to protect. That would be paradoxical indeed.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times



Climate change: It's time to talk, and act, tough

By BILL MCKIBBEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Try to fit these facts together:

■ According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the planet has just come through the warmest decade, the warmest 12 months, the warmest six months and the warmest April, May and June on record.

■ A "staggering" new study from Canadian researchers has shown that warmer seawater has reduced phytoplankton, the base of the marine food chain, by 40 percent since 1950.

■ Nine nations so far have set their all-time temperature records this year, including Russia (111 degrees), Niger (118), Sudan (121), Saudi Arabia and Iraq (126 apiece), and Pakistan, which also set the new all-time Asia record in May—a hair under 130 degrees.

■ And then, in late July, the U.S. Senate decided to do exactly nothing about climate change. It didn't do less than it could have; it did nothing, preserving a perfect two-decade bipartisan record of no action. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid decided not to even schedule a vote on legislation that would have capped carbon emissions.

I'm a mild-mannered guy, a Methodist Sunday school teacher. I'm not quick to anger. But the time has come to get mad, and then to get busy.

For many years, the lobbying fight for climate legislation on Capitol Hill has been led by moderate environmental groups, outfits such as the Environmental Defense Fund. We owe them a great debt, and not just for their hard work. We owe them a debt because they did everything the way you're supposed to: They wore nice clothes, lobbied tirelessly and compromised at every turn.

By the time they were done, they had a bill that would have capped carbon emissions only from electric utilities (not factories or cars) and was so laden with gifts for industry that if you listened closely, you could actually hear the oinking. Sen. John Kerry, the legislator they worked most closely with, issued this rallying cry as the final negotiations began: "We believe we have compromised significantly, and we're prepared to compromise further."

And even that was not enough. They were left out to dry by everyone—not just Reid, not just the Republicans. President Obama wouldn't lend a hand either.

The result: total defeat, no moral victories.

So now we know what we didn't before: Making nice doesn't work. It was worth a try, but it didn't work. So we'd better try something else.

Step 1 involves actually talking about global warming. For

years now, the accepted wisdom was: talk about anything else—energy independence, oil security, beating the Chinese to renewable technology.

But the task at hand is to keep the planet from melting. We need everyone, beginning with the president, to start explaining that basic fact at every turn.

It is the heat, and also the humidity. Because warm air holds more water than cold, the atmosphere is about 5% moister than it was 40 years ago, which explains the freak downpours that seem to happen someplace on this continent every few days.

It is the carbon. That's why the seas are turning acid, a point Obama could have made with ease while standing on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. Energy independence is nice, but you need a planet to be energy independent on.

Step 2, we have to ask for what we actually need, not what we calculate we might be able to get. If we're going to slow global warming in the very short time available to us, we don't actually need an incredibly complicated legislative scheme that gives door prizes to every interested industry. We need a stiff price on carbon, set by the scientific understanding that we can't still be burning black rocks a couple of decades hence.

Asking for what you need doesn't mean you'll get all of it. Compromise still happens. But as David Brower, the greatest environmentalist of the late 20th century, explained amid the fight to save the Grand Canyon: "We are to hold fast to what we believe is right, fight for it, and find allies and adduce all possible arguments for our cause. If we cannot find enough vigor in us or them to win, then let someone else propose the compromise."

Which leads to the third step in this process. If we're going to get any of this done, we're going to need a movement. For 20 years, environmentalists have operated on the notion that we'd get action if we simply had scientists explain to politicians and chief executives that our current ways are unsustainable. That turns out, quite conclusively, not to work. We need to be able to explain to them that continuing in their current ways will end something they actually care about: their careers. And because we'll never have the cash to compete with Exxon, we better work in the currencies we can muster: bodies, spirit, passion.

We're not going to get the Senate to act next week, or maybe even next year. It took a decade after the Montgomery bus boycott to get the Voting Rights Act. But if there hadn't been a movement, then the Voting Rights Act would have passed in—never. We may need to get arrested. We definitely will need disciplined,

See CLIMATE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Thoughts about pension obligation bonds and questions that may not have been asked

Conclusion

A government employee who voluntarily participates by contributing to his or her retirement by permitting the central government to deduct a portion of their salary for one specific, dedicated purpose, and that being the direct transfer of the participant's money to his or her retirement account represents a monetary contribution of an amount which previously could be withdrawn since it's the property of the employee. I question whether the money the central government has collected for one purpose, namely, a DBP retirement account, can then legally obligate those funds—which are not and never were the property of the government—and pledge those funds to satisfy a guarantee for payment of a bond.

Here are two simple cautious questions which should be answered and answered soon: (a) Can a legal opinion be obtained on the above matter before it goes too far down the road and is embedded in the concrete of a bond agreement? (b) What arrangements can be made for "off-island" DBP retirees to vote their educated and informed preference on any pension obligation bond initiative that may ultimately affect their property should Retirement Fund (their) assets be pledged to secure payment in the event of a bond default? Not to allow "off island" interested and affected retirees to express their position by vote if they so choose based on all relevant facts related to a bond issuance, namely, interest rate, maturity, penalties, etc., on the issuance of a bond seems to me to be a bit discriminatory. Just how to permit those retirees absent from the CNMI the privilege to vote I'm certain can be arranged—but please, at the expense of the central government and not the Fund.

In the words of my dear sweet granny, "Better to jump the gun and ask questions beforehand—than not to jump when the gun goes off."

The government's policy of 2007 to phase out the benefit plan has served to reduce the number of members participating in the program, which in turn limits the amount of contributions available to meet bond payments should the return on the \$220 million investment in the stock market be inadequate to service the bond.

As the older members get called to Glory through attrition, the numbers become ever smaller and smaller, while the cost of servicing the interest on the loan remains the same until that day when the interest has been paid and the lump sum principle becomes due (depending upon the terms of the bond, of course). Remember nothing is free; everything has a cost.

In my judgment public credit should be used as sparingly as possible and the accumulation of debt should be cautiously undertaken. It must be appreciated that the payment of debt requires revenue. Therefore, generally speaking, to have revenue there must be a revenue source—taxes or fees or some form of income generation source and again, generally speaking, no taxes can be devised which

are not disagreeable to one group or another.

The bond principal discussed publicly so far (in this case approximately \$200 million or so) is paid in full by the borrower (the NMI, the Fund or whatever) at maturity sometime in the future. Until then, the borrower makes interest payments to the lender (sometimes monthly or quarterly). The rate at which interest is paid on the bond is essentially the cost of obtaining the loan. This varies with the creditworthiness of the bond issuer (the borrower).

As I have mentioned previously in this column, of course, the proceeds from the bond, for example, the \$200 million or whatever it might happen to be, would presumably be invested in the stock market or some other investment instrument hopefully, earning more in interest in the market than must be paid out to the bond holders. And there, dear friends, is the rub, or should I say gamble.

Ask yourself the question: Why wouldn't the people or institutions with funds to invest take their \$200 million and forget about loaning it to the NMI and instead invest in the stock market? I'll tell you why—because the NMI will be forced to guarantee payment of interest to the bond holders since there is no guarantee in the stock market for them or the Fund. For the bond purchaser to lend to the NMI is a sure thing while investing in the market is not.

Certainly the successful sale of NMI bonds could provide \$200 million right away that should be quickly invested, hopefully to earn a higher interest rate than that what the CNMI must pay the bond holders. But there is no guarantee. The only guarantee is that insisted on by the bond purchaser and that guarantee may be that the retirees will make up any loss. Hello.

The gamble then is on the "spread," that is the difference in what is paid out in interest to the purchaser of the bond and the money earned in interest from the \$200 million invested by the Retirement Fund.

Arbitrage is the term used in such transactions, always with the hope of profiting from the difference in interest paid to one entity as compared to interest earned from another different entity.

As for myself, I'm not opposed in principle to revenue bonds per se as long as they are not guaranteed by funds obligated by law as belonging to contributing retirees.

Of course, that leaves the public—and why should the public guarantee the issuance of bonds for which they derive no benefit? They shouldn't.

■■■

For those interested—other titles and dates relating to pension obligation bonds may be reviewed in the following Tribune archives:

(1) - "Why A Pension Obligation Bond Guaranteed By The Fund May Not Be In The Best Interest of Retirees", April 27 and 28 (two parts), 2010;

(2) - "The Retirement Fund—What A Difference Nine Years Made—or Did It?" & Another Look at Pension Obligation Bonds, April 16, 2010;

Obama the Leo president: Is that a good sign?

who "are born to lead and guide others." We're the kind of guys who "can guide, direct, communicate and teach other people in an aristocratic manner."

Once again, the uncanny accuracy of the portrait shakes the skepticism of those who doubt the validity of astrology. Even on the downside, the astrologers seem to get it right. That same astrological profile that singled out the better angels of our natures also took note of the possibility that Leo men "may falter and commit some glaring mistakes in the haste of getting their work done in double quick time." Doesn't that sound a little like the way our current Leo-in-chief handled the Shirley Sherrod episode? I wouldn't have faltered in that way, of course, but then I'm a July Leo, and we're generally known to be more judicious than August Leos. Sexier, too, as a rule. The quality of your average Leo tends to decline as the calendar moves toward Virgo, a group of people generally seen by astrologers as fussy and narrow-minded. Ivan the Terrible was a Virgo, and so is Amy Winehouse, so what does that tell you?

For what it's worth, there's nary a Leo to be found among those four presidents whose faces are carved into the rock of Mt. Rushmore. George Washington was a Pisces, Thomas Jefferson an Aries, Theodore Roosevelt a Scorpio and Abraham Lincoln an Aquarius. Franklin D. Roosevelt, ranked by many historians as the greatest president of the 20th century, was also an Aquarius.

It's probably time we had a Leo up on Mount Rushmore. Although we can't count President Obama among those very best Leos, who tend to be born in July, he may yet prove himself the equal of those lesser signs who've preceded him in achieving greatness. However that works out, it should be reassuring to know we have a Leo in charge during these challenging times.

So, happy birthday, Mr. President, from one charming, sexy and modest Leo to another.

Jaime O'Neill is a writer in Northern California and wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



(3) - "A Few Thoughts on Evaluating Pension Obligation Bonds", (two parts), March 18 & 19, 2010;
 (4) - "Bond Financing for Fund—Bad Idea", March 6, 2009;
 (5) - "What's The Possibility of Bond Financing For The Retirement Fund?", Oct. 24, 2008.

Letter to the Editor

Job search blues

The headline last week read: "Only immigration issue agreed on: 'CNMI still needs foreign workers.' How was this determined? If this is truly the case then I would have been working since February! The chances of foreign workers maintaining their jobs are much, much bigger than my chance of landing one! Kilili is asking for more food stamp assistance because there are more people unemployed this year than last, and here we are declaring that we still need foreign workers! This total disconnection to reality must end!

I have been searching for a job since February, and I still do not have one. I have been to the Labor Department and the following is an example of what can be found on the board: Position: Manager. Salary: \$4.55 per hour. Is this why a lot of local people are unemployed? An hourly wage of \$4.55 amounts to about \$660 a month. Meanwhile my house rent costs \$200 a month, utilities (with air conditioning at night only) \$200 a month. My car payment is \$375, and my phone bill is \$30 (without long distance). I have two children to feed and our food costs about \$350 a month and hygienic products about another \$60.

Most important to note is the discrepancy between duties, qualification requirements, and the salary. I do not mind working for \$4.55 an hour, it is seriously better than nothing, even though I will always be a month or more behind on something that needs to be paid. More troubling, however, is that the responses I received were mostly "...someone else more qualified was already hired" or "...we preferred someone who can speak Japanese, Chinese or Korean." Of course he/she is more qualified! They have been working there since who knows when! Their contracts just needed renewal and this ridiculous and ineffective law of announcing the position must be complied with! Moreover, is it not that English is an international language? I go to Japan, I speak English. I go to Korea, I speak English. I do not know about mainland China for I have never been there, but in Hong Kong and Singapore I spoke English. I never encountered any problems. If we could not understand each other verbally then, by God, sign language is also universal and they work exciting miracles! I have never heard of Japan, Korea, or China trying to learn Chamorro to accommodate us! I am not minimizing the importance of multilinguals, but for Pete Reyes' sake (sorry Pete! Just being facetious) can we at least require them to speak English fluently as well?

If I can happily serve an old lady whose leg is amputated, on dialysis three times a week, grouchier than Oscar of Sesame Street, and whose appetite is worse than an anorexic, I think I can serve with a better disposition at a restaurant where stress mounts with every miscommunication between patrons and waiters! "I would like fork please." And a plate of fried pork is brought. "I said I want a fork! Why is fried pork on my plate? I've not ordered my food yet!" Or go to Dynasty and you try to communicate with people at VIP services. You would be in for a treat! Hello America!

Juanita M. Mendiola

Marpo Valley, Tinian

CLIMATE

From Page 10

to have to raise our voices.

Bill McKibben is the founder of 350.org and the author, most recently, of "Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet." He's a scholar in residence at Middlebury College. A longer version of this piece appears at tomdispatch.com. McKibben wrote this for The Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87° ▼ 78°

▲ 87° ▼ 78°

▲ 87° ▼ 78°

▲ 87° ▼ 78°

▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 47
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲ 81 ▼ 68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 54 ▼ 46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 80
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 95 ▼ 76
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Paris	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 55
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Rome	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 68
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 51
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 80
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 98 ▼ 80

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:28 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
6:39 AM	Today	High Tide: 2.1 Feet
1:53 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.5 Feet
8:38 PM	Today	High Tide: 2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:01 AM	6:43 PM	Today	5:47 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM	Wednesday	6:49 AM	7:30 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM	Thursday	7:50 AM	8:16 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM	Friday	8:50 AM	9:00 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM	Saturday	9:49 AM	9:46 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

■ ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

■ Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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■ Fax: (670) 235-3740

■ Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950

■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

HR MATTERS

Austerity measures, reduction-in-force

By FRANK GIBSON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Q : I keep reading about "austerity measures" and "reduction-in-force" in the newspapers. What does it really mean? What rights and protections do I have?

A: Well, if you're reading the paper, you're probably also finding terms like "recession" describing the Commonwealth's, the United States' and the world's current economic situation. You can see the signs and affects of the recession all around us here in the Commonwealth: fewer tourists and decreased revenues, resulting in the government and businesses hiring less and having problems making payments. When this happens and the immediate future doesn't look any rosier, they look for ways to decrease their expenses. When times get tough, tighten the belt, cut out luxuries, do more with less and, when necessary, do without.

Since personnel costs are often a company's biggest expense, employers, both government and private, try to find ways to control or decrease their personnel costs. When the steps they take to decrease costs start to actively affect employees work conditions, compensation and employment, they can be viewed as reduction-in-force (RIF) actions.

Since the term reduction-force (read "force" as workforce) implies staffing decreases, employers often limit the term RIF to just the actual layoffs: either the short term or permanent separation of employees as a result of these necessary austerity measures. The term can also be used to refer to those attempts to cut personnel costs that come before the two final drastic measures: employee terminations and business closure. These include such actions as elimination of overtime, stopping discretionary and non-contractual benefits (transportation, meals, employee discounts, etc.), decreases in work hours and salary reductions. Once these efforts have been tried—and if they don't keep the company on a sound financial footing—the workforce will then often be reduced by the termination of employees.

So, how is a RIF implemented? The government has regulations and most companies have policies that provide guidance in effecting RIF actions. It's important that employers follow their regulations and policies to provide equitable treatment. The preliminary non-termination steps very often affect all employees. When it comes time to terminate staff, both in the government and private business, the employees affected are usually limited to those in the function or position that is no longer needed or is overstaffed, unless it is necessary for the whole organization to slim down.

How are the individual employees selected for separation? In the case of the government, each affected employee receives a retention standing score calculated from a formula based on seniority and performance. Those employees with lower retention standing scores in the affected jobs will be terminated first. Private businesses have to strongly consider the best interests of the company, but also usually make determinations based upon performance, seniority and special value to the company. Again, it is important that a system be established that recognizes the vital needs of the employer and also the contributions of the employee, and is followed closely to minimize charges of discrimination.

What rights and protections do employees have? All employees have the right to not be subjected to discrimination based upon any of the factors protected by EEO laws. They also have those rights provided by the WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification) Act, if the size of the RIF is sufficient to trigger it, and any other relevant local or federal statutes. Employee hired at-will also have any rights and protections provided by company policies. Contract employees, in addition to all of the above, have any rights and protections provided by their employment contracts. Government employees have the above rights and protections, plus what is provided by regulation or employment contract.

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office. You may ask him questions or send him feedback at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or editor@saipantribune.com.



Fr. Nonoy Recaido of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa and KFC accounting manager Imelda Valiente join KFC representatives and some of the delegates for the 2011 World Youth Day. Initiated by Pope John Paul II, the youth-centered event will be held from Aug. 16 to 21, 2011 in Madrid, Spain.

Diocese, KFC team up to raise funds for 2011 World Youth Day delegates

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa teamed up with KFC through a food promotion last Aug. 7 and 8 to raise funds for the CNMI delegates for the 2011 World Youth Day celebration.

KFC patrons enjoyed a hearty and filling meal that consisted of one piece of KFC extra crispy chicken, rice, gravy, coleslaw, and a bottle of water for only \$5.

Twenty percent of the proceeds will help fund the CNMI delegation for the 2011 WYD, said KFC accounting manager Imelda Valiente.

Valiente told *Saipan Tribune* last Saturday that the promotion was an opportunity for them to give back to the community by helping the diocese and kids who will participate in next year's big event that is focused on the youth.

Initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1986, the World Youth Day is a youth-oriented Catholic event and is celebrated at an international level at different locations worldwide.

The 2011 World Youth Day will be held from August 16 to 21 in Madrid, Spain.

"It's a good cause for the kids' spiritual growth. We hope that more kids will join the event," said Valiente.

According to Valiente, they are looking at the possibility of conducting the food promotion again and giving additional donation besides the food promo proceeds.

"We are more than willing to help," Valiente added.

Fr. Nonoy E. Recaido, youth ministry director of the diocese of Chalan Kanoa, expressed their appreciation to KFC for their contribution.

"Thank you to KFC for working with us hand in hand for the fundraising activity," he said.

2011 WYD delegates

Recaido said the CNMI has about 40 delegates so far for the 2011 WYD event. "We are still waiting for other delegates from other parishes," he added.

According to Recaido, they expect about 80 kids from the twelve different parishes

of the diocese who will participate in the event.

Registration for the event costs \$200 for each participant, about half of the cost of the registration from last year's WYD held in Australia, he said.

Recaido said that per the quotation they received from the WYD travel agency in Spain, they would need about \$2,500 for each of the CNMI delegates.

"I think we can come up with the funds with the help of the community and the eagerness of the delegates," he said.

While they are waiting for the solidarity fund which they would receive between January and February 2011 from the WYD committee, Recaido said they have scheduled other activities to help raise funds for their trip to Spain.

Aside from the KFC promo, Recaido said they sold hot lunch also for \$5 last July 31.

They also scheduled a concert by the WYD delegates themselves at the World Resort on September 15. Tickets for the concert will be sold for \$50 apiece.

A raffle drawing is also slated for December at the Mount Carmel Cathedral, said Recaido.

Cathedral, said Recaido.

Michael Lester Vertrudez, 16, is among the delegates who were present during the KFC promo last Saturday.

An incoming junior at Marianas High School, Vertrudez said he will play the ukulele along with other delegates as part of the anticipated concert in September.

Recaido said they are optimistic about these kids who will have a chance of a lifetime to develop their spirituality through the WYD.

Ken Orejola of Saipan Southern High School said he is very excited about the trip since it will be his first time to visit Spain.

Aside from the WYD activities, Orejola said he looks forward to sightseeing during his stay in Madrid.

Those who are interested to be part of the delegation may visit Recaido at the Mount Carmel

Cathedral to fill out an application and schedule an interview.

Recaido added they accept any amount of pledge, donation or sponsorship for these delegates. For more information, call 234-3000.

Cash-hungry states add casinos, lure same gamblers

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Cash-starved states are increasingly being drawn to the lure of easy money in casinos—a bet that could ultimately hurt taxpayers if the supply of slot machines, poker tables and racetracks outpaces customers' demand.

The race to open new casinos is most frenzied in the Northeast, which has 41 casinos and 20 more planned.

Atlantic City, N.J., which for decades held a gambling monopoly outside Nevada, was already reeling from a beatdown inflicted by neighboring competitors. Now New York, which has casinos run by Indian tribes, just approved slot machines for its Aqueduct racetrack. Penn-

sylvania has added table games like poker and blackjack to its nine slot-machine casinos—and five new casinos are planned.

Massachusetts lawmakers approved plans July 31 for the state's first gambling halls, threatening two tribal casinos in Connecticut and two racetrack casinos in Rhode Island.

Maine's voters decide a casino issue in November; Ohio just approved casinos; Maryland opens its first—along the busy Interstate 95 corridor—this fall; and Delaware's three racetrack casinos started offering table games this summer.

The consequences of saturation could be debilitating: Companies are investing billions of

dollars chasing ever-smaller slices of the gambling pie while governments are banking on additional tax revenue from new casinos and gamblers' winnings to help run operations and ward off tax hikes.

States talk openly of poaching gamblers from their neighboring states and view keeping their own residents' money within state borders as something akin to a religious duty.

"Government wants free money, and the casino industry for years has represented and provided free money to them," said Tom Carver, executive director of New Jersey's Casino Reinvestment Development Authority. "The attraction is, 'Our

citizens are going to a casino somewhere else and spending money that should stay within our borders, so we need our own casinos.' But people are running out of disposable income."

On the other side of the table, industry executives and some analysts say the Northeast's dense population makes it fertile ground for more casinos, with little risk of saturation.

The average gambler spends \$108 at a casino visit—an amount roughly unchanged over 30 years, an American Gaming Association survey found. States tax gambling revenue at rates ranging from 6.75 percent in Nevada to 55 percent in Pennsylvania.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Boy, 14, suspected of starting LA-area wildfire

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (AP)—A 14-year-old boy who allegedly told deputies he dropped a lighter as he was trying to smoke pot in a field Sunday sparked a 40-acre blaze that briefly threatened some 50 homes and forced evacuations before it was contained, authorities said. The boy from Saugus, one of four people detained in connection with the blaze, was booked on suspicion of arson, Los Angeles County sheriff's Capt. Mike Parker said. Another 14-year-old boy had joined the suspect and helped him try to put out the fire. When they failed they fled, and after tips from neighbors both boys were detained, Parker said. Parker said when the first boy confessed he was arrested and the other boy was let go. No charges were planned for the second boy, Parker said. The boys' names were withheld because of their age.

Alaska police: Kidnapping call may have been prank

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—Alaska authorities say the search for a 10-year-old girl who called police saying she'd been kidnapped has turned up little, and they're considering it may have been a prank. Juneau police say the girl called early Friday saying she'd been kidnapped and drugged by an unknown man and dropped off alone in a Juneau parking lot. The girl said she was from Juneau and her name was Abby, and she spoke with a pronounced British accent, authorities said. She also gave her parents' names and said they were in jail. The call prompted a massive search, but the Juneau Empire reports the investigation has produced few results. Police say there's no record of the girl's parents at the Lemon Creek Correctional Center. And they traced the call to a business in British Columbia, Canada.

2 killed by car after church service in Maryland

EMMITSBURG, Md. (AP)—Authorities say two family members have been killed and third seriously injured when a car plowed into a group gathered on the side of the road after a church service in northern Maryland. Cpl. Jennifer Bailey of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office says a 63-year-old driver was trying to park her Mercury Mountaineer along the roadway late Sunday morning. She says the car accelerated and backed into the people who were crossing the road in Emmitsburg. The driver also hit two cars. Bailey says 64-year-old Patricia Mauro-Cillo died on the road and 53-year-old John Cillo died sometime after he was taken away. Eighty-nine-year-old Marian Derosa is being treated at Shock Trauma in Baltimore. All three lived in Emmitsburg, which is near the Pennsylvania border. Police say no charges have been filed.

Nun's death rallies anti-immigration forces

WASHINGTON (AP)—In Arizona, the shooting death of a rancher blew the lid off simmering anger over border security and helped solidify support for a tough new immigration law. A similar eruption threatens in Virginia following the death of a Catholic nun in a car accident involving a man in the country illegally and accused of drunken driving. The Benedictine Sisters of Virginia tried to discourage using the death of Sister Denise Mosier as a "forum of the illegal immigration agenda" and pleaded for a focus on "Christ's command to forgive." "The sisters' mission is peace and love," said Corey Stewart, chairman of Prince William County's Board of Supervisors. "My mission is law enforcement and the protection of public safety."

Gulf shrimpers pray for good season despite oil

THERIOT, La. (AP)—Docked boats were bedecked with fluttering red, white and blue streamers and rainbows of balloons in a bayou-country, pre-shrimp season tradition known as the "Blessing of the Boats."

On the menu? Heaping trays of barbecued chicken, smoked sausage and potato salad—but no crabs or shrimp.

Blame the BP oil spill. The company has plugged the leak and announced Sunday that cement sealing the busted oil well in the Gulf of Mexico had hardened, clearing the path for the final phase of drilling a relief well.

The future isn't so clear for fishermen and their families seeking blessings for a bountiful harvest and divine protection from the water's dangers. They are wondering if the waters will ever be the same again.

"I've had ice chests of shrimp in my freezer all my life," said Dita Dehart, 70, a lifelong area resident who was working on desserts in a back room of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, which has hosted the blessing on Bayou Dularge for more than 50 years. "I have none now."

Fishermen have suffered through the ever-changing scenario of on-again, off-again closures and a murky future ever since the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded April 20, killing 11 workers. BP said Sunday it may soon begin drilling the final 100 feet



AP A fleet of decorated fishing boats make their way up Bayou Delarge in Theriot, La., during the pre-shrimp season tradition known as the "Blessing of the Boats," Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010.

of a relief well.

Once the relief well intersects the broken well, more mud and cement will be pumped in for the "bottom kill" meant to seal the well for good.

However, the plugging of the well hasn't ended the uncertainty: Yes, the state technically set next Monday Aug. 16 as the opening for a fall shrimp season along the coast, but some waters will likely remain

closed as federal authorities test the safety of the seafood.

"I got a boat that's ready," said Ravin Lacoste, 57. "But we don't know what's going to open up."

"It's open, it's closed, it's open it's closed," said Charles Lovell Jr., before he clambered aboard his shrimp boat to ferry the Rev. Jervis Burns up and down the bayou.

Burns first conducted a service for

about 50 fishermen, their families and other parishioners of St. Andrews. The congregation gathered around him on the banks or watched from about a dozen shrimp and oyster boats, sheriff's patrol boats and other vessels that sat across a two-lane road from the church—a long, pitch-roofed white metal building nestled between two sprawling oaks, draped with Spanish moss.

Ariz. escapees believed to be in Yellowstone area



In this combination of undated photos provided by the Mohave County Sheriff's Office, Tracy Province, left, John McClusky, center, Daniel Renwick are shown.

Federal investigators in Montana and Wyoming and law enforcement authorities with the National Park Service are working with investigators from Arizona to follow leads in the Yellowstone area.

The manhunt for the three intensified Saturday after forensic evidence linked at least one of the

inmates to the killings of an Oklahoma couple who was traveling through eastern New Mexico earlier this week.

The badly burned skeletal remains of Linda and Gary Haas—both 61 and from Tecumseh, Okla.—were found in a charred camper Wednesday morning on a remote ranch in Santa Rosa. The couple's pickup truck was found that afternoon 100 miles west in Albuquerque.

Henman and New Mexico State Police spokesman Peter Olson both called the search for the two inmates an urgent situation given the double-homicide in New Mexico.

"They are very dangerous individuals, very desperate individuals, and the longer they're out there, the more desperate they become and the more dangerous they become," Henman said Sunday.

Weather service: Up to 7 tornadoes hit ND, Minn.

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP)—As many as seven tornadoes may have touched down Saturday evening in southeast North Dakota and western Minnesota, the National Weather Service said Sunday. No injuries were reported in any of the tornadoes.

Weather service crews on Sunday surveyed damage from two of the twisters, including a strong one that hit near Tyler, N.D., about 7 p.m. Saturday. Meteorologist Greg Gust, in the weather service's Grand Forks office, said that tornado was on the ground for about five

miles and had wind speeds greater than an EF3, which range from 136 to 165 mph.

"It was scouring a sugar beet field and pulling sugar beets out of the ground, so it had a bit of attitude," he said.

The tornado also destroyed seven farm buildings and tossed a pickup truck about a half mile into a field, Gust said.

Weather service crews also looked at damage from a tornado in Grant and Douglas counties in Minnesota, but Gust said that one caused little structural damage to buildings. It

was on the ground for 19 miles and had wind speeds of 86 to 100 mph.

Additional assessments were planned for Monday as the weather service worked to confirm the exact number of tornadoes. Gust said the storms that started in North Dakota and moved east into Minnesota spawned at least four tornadoes and possibly up to seven. They caused some damage on farms.

A video shot by a storm chaser showed a tornado touching down near a farm house in Wilkin County, Minn., and debris flying into the air as the funnel tore into the building. Langenwalter found it behind a nearby grove of trees.

The home destroyed in the video was near the tiny community of Campbell, Minn., according to a dispatcher with the Wilkin County sheriff. But the owner, Al Kosek, 76, and his family weren't home, and there were no injuries, she said.

Dave Langenwalter told KVLY-TV in Fargo that he and his son had just gone into their basement when a tornado touched down just yards from their house near Tyler. His garage was gone, he said, and his car was picked up and dropped several yards away. Langenwalter found it behind a nearby grove of trees.

Asia

Asia flooding plunges millions into misery

BEIJING (AP)—Floods and landslides across Asia plunged millions into misery Sunday as rubble-strewn waters killed at least 127 in northwestern China and 4 million Pakistanis faced food shortages amid their country's worst-ever flooding.

In Indian-controlled Kashmir, rescuers raced to find 500 people still missing in flash floods that have already killed 132, while North Korea's state media said high waters had destroyed thousands of homes and damaged crops.

Terrified residents fled to high ground or upper stories of apartment buildings in China's Gansu province after a debris-blocked river overflowed during the night, smashing buildings and overturning cars.

The official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday that authorities were seeking to locate

an estimated 1,300 people still missing in the latest deluge in a summer that has seen China's worst seasonal flooding in a decade. That figure was down from 2,000 earlier in the day.

Worst hit was the county seat of Zhouqu in the province's Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, where houses buckled and streets were filled with more than a yard (meter) of mud and water.

The landslides struck after heavy rains lashed China late Saturday, causing the Bailong River to burst its banks, Xinhua quoted the head of Zhouqu county, Diemujiangteng, as saying.

The devastation was worsened by flotsam that blocked the river upstream, creating a 2-mile (3-kilometer) -long lake that overflowed and sent waves of mud, rocks and water crashing down on the town, ripping houses from their foundations

and tearing six-story apartment buildings in half.

Explosives experts were flying to the scene by helicopter to demolish the blockage and safely release potential flood waters ahead of more rain forecast through Wednesday.

China Central Television said 45,000 people had been evacuated, but the region's remote, mountainous location was hampering the emergency response. Narrow roads prevented the movement of heavy equipment, forcing rescuers to rely on shovels, picks and buckets.

Firefighters rescued 28 people on Sunday and the government had allocated 500 million yuan (\$73 million) for recovery efforts, Xinhua said.

Around China, the country's worst flooding in a decade has killed more than 1,100 people this year, with more than 600

still missing. The floods have caused tens of billions of dollars in damage across 28 provinces and regions.

In Pakistan, more than 1,500 people have been killed and millions more left begging for help following the worst floods in the country's history. Prices of fruit and vegetable skyrocketed Sunday, with more than 1 million

acres (405,000 hectares) of crops destroyed and at least 4 million people in need of food assistance in the coming months.

The latest deaths included at least 53 people killed on Saturday when landslides buried two villages in the northern Gilgit-Baltistan, senior government official Ali Mohammad Sikandar said.

Victims of Afghan massacre gave years of service

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—One gave up a lucrative practice to give free dental care to children who had never seen a toothbrush. Others had devoted whole decades of their lives to helping the Afghan people through war and deprivation.

The years of service ended in a hail of bullets in a remote valley of a land that members of the medical team had learned to love.

The bodies of the 10 slain volunteers—six Americans, two Afghans, a German and a Briton—were flown Sunday back to Kabul by helicopter, even as friends and family bitterly rejected Taliban claims the group had tried to convert Afghans to Christianity.

Also flown to the capital was

the lone survivor of the attack, an Afghan driver who said he was spared because he was a Muslim and recited Islamic holy verses as he begged for his life. The International Assistance Mission, which organized the trip, said the driver had been a trusted employee with four years of service.

Police said they don't know if he is a witness or an accomplice in the killings, claimed by the Taliban.

"We are heartbroken by the loss of these heroic, generous people," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in Washington. She condemned the Taliban for the deaths and what she called a "transparent attempt to justify the unjustifi-

able by making false accusations about their activities."

The group had spent two weeks treating villagers in a remote valley in northern Afghanistan for eye diseases and other ailments before being ambushed by extremists on their way back to Kabul.

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese city of Nagasaki marked the 65th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bomb attack on Monday with a record 32 countries attending—but no American representative.

A moment of silence was observed at 11:02 a.m., the time when the United States dropped

an atomic bomb on the southern Japanese city on Aug. 9, 1945, in the waning days of World War II.

Nagasaki was flattened three days after the United States detonated its first nuclear bomb on Hiroshima. About 80,000 people were killed in Nagasaki, while some 140,000 people were killed or died within months in Hiroshima. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II.

The Nagasaki ceremony began with a chorus of aging survivors of the atomic bombing and Mayor Tomihisa Taue calling for a nuclear-free world.

"Nagasaki, together with Hiroshima, will continue to make the utmost efforts until the world gets rid of all nuclear

weapons," he said.

While the United States sent Ambassador John Roos as the country's first delegate to Friday's memorial ceremony in Hiroshima, it did not dispatch a representative to the Nagasaki anniversary.

The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo said Monday the ambassador could not attend the Nagasaki ceremony due to schedule conflicts.

The U.S. envoy recently called the city's mayor to tell him he hopes to visit Nagasaki in the future, according to the embassy.

A Nagasaki city official said delegations from a record 32 countries, including nuclear powers Britain and France, attended Monday's ceremony.

Radical Indonesian cleric arrested for terrorism

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Radical Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, once imprisoned for his links to the terror group behind the Bali bombings, was arrested Monday for alleged involvement with a new militant network.

His lawyer, Muhammad Ali, said the arrest took place early Monday in West Java's Ciamis district.

Bashir, 72, is best known as the founder and spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, the al-Qaida-linked group responsible for the 2002 bombings on Indonesia's resort

island of Bali that killed 202 people, many of them Western tourists.

The fiery cleric spent several years in prison for his involvement with JI—blamed for at least three other deadly attacks in the world's most populous Muslim nation—but was released in 2006.

He has always denied any link with terrorists.

Police arrested Bashir on Monday for alleged involvement with a new terror group discovered in westernmost Aceh province in February.

The cell was reportedly plot-

ASIAN BRIEFS

Officials: Terrorism unlikely in Philippine blast

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A bomb that killed two people and wounded two dozen others at a southern Philippine airport was probably an assassination attempt on a governor, not an act of terrorism, officials said Sunday. The remotely triggered explosion killed a man who was carrying the bomb and his companion and wounded two dozen people, including Sulu Gov. Sakur Tan, at the Zamboanga city airport late Thursday, Zamboanga police Chief Edwin de Ocampo said. The explosion caused U.S. Ambassador Harry Thomas to postpone a trip to Zamboanga the following day and rekindled fears of terrorism in the city, a bustling metropolis about 540 miles (860 kilometers) south of Manila that has experienced deadly bombings by al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants in the past. "We can rule out terrorism," de Ocampo told The Associated Press. "By all indications, it was a politically motivated attack."

Hong Kong transgender woman fights marriage ban

HONG KONG (AP)—A Hong Kong court began reviewing Monday a government decision to bar a transgender woman from marrying her male partner in the first such case to be heard

in the city's legal system, the woman's lawyer said. The woman, a local resident in her 20s who can be only identified as "W" under court order, was born male but underwent sex-change surgery over the past five years but was prevented from marrying her boyfriend by Hong Kong's marriage registry, her lawyer Michael Vidler said. "She is a woman and she should be entitled to the same rights as a woman," Vidler said by phone. The case underscores the uncertainty of marriage law when it comes to people who have changed their biological gender in the socially conservative ethnic Chinese community.

Ferry sinks in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A police chief says a ferry carrying more than 50 people sank in eastern Indonesia. At least 10 people died and 16 others were rescued. Lt. Abdul Rahma Aba told the local television station, TVOne, that the accident occurred Monday off East Nusatenggara province. He says the boat was heading from the island of Adonara to Lembata, both located just east of Flores island. Ferries are a main source of transportation in Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation with more than 17,000 islands and a population of 235 million. Sea accidents are common due to overcrowding and poor safety standards.



AP

A Pakistani mother carries her children through floodwater in Muzaffargarh flooded in Pakistan on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010.

The United States decided to drop the bombs because Washington believed it would hasten the end of the war and avert the need to wage prolonged and bloody land battles on Japan's main island. That concern was heightened by Japan's desperate efforts to control outlying islands such as Iwo Jima and Okinawa as the Allies closed in.

Apart from Roos, former President Jimmy Carter visited Hiroshima's Peace Museum in 1984, years after he was out of office. The highest-ranking American to visit while in office is House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who went in 2008. Roos also visited Hiroshima soon after assuming his post last year.

ting a Mumbai-style attack on foreigners at luxury hotels in the capital, Jakarta, and several high-profile assassinations, including President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Dozens of suspects linked to the group have since been arrested or killed. Rumors have circulated for weeks that Bashir, known for propagating hatred against foreigners, was next on the list.

National police spokesman Col. Marwoto Suto confirmed Monday's arrest, but said details would not be released until later in the day.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Death toll rises to 11 in flooding in Europe

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—The death toll in flooding in central Europe rose to 11 as Poland's interior minister said Sunday that two more people had died in the southwestern region of the country. The flooding has struck an area near the borders of Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic. Heavy rains in Poland caused flooding in the southwestern town of Bogatynia and one person was already reported dead on Saturday. In the northern Czech Republic, five people were found drowned over the weekend. Another three people drowned in the eastern German state of Saxony on Saturday. Several roads and villages there were flooded by swelling Neisse river and hundreds of people were evacuated with rubber boats by rescue workers from their homes in the city of Goerlitz.

Baghdad's traffic cops are on militants' hit list

BAGHDAD (AP)—Baghdad's traffic cops are demanding their own guards after at least 10 were killed over the past week in drive-by shootings and other attacks that have set back efforts to restore normalcy to Iraq's capital after years of violence. Security officials have blamed al-Qaida in Iraq for the killings, in which gunmen used pistols fitted with silencers. They said the militants target traffic cops to create chaos on Baghdad's congested streets and embarrass authorities who boast of improved security. Many of the traffic cops are unarmed, surprising given years of violence on the city's streets. Now, they are demanding assault rifles to defend themselves as well as protection from the tens of thousands of heavily armed policemen and soldiers deployed across the city. Authorities, eager to stop the killings, are moving quickly to meet their demands.

US commander says Iraqis ready to handle security

WASHINGTON (AP)—Iraq's military is ready and able to take over security operations as the United States ends its combat role and prepares for a major troop withdrawal, the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq said Sunday.

Gen. Ray Odierno said Iraq's military has "stepped up" to the challenge even as Iraqi politicians continue to squabble over the formation of a new government and new incidents of extremist violence are reported.

"We do believe they are ready to assume full operations in Iraq,"

Guantanamo gears up for 1st trial under Obama

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—U.S. military officers were flying in Sunday to serve as jurors in war-crimes proceedings as the Guantanamo tribunal system geared up for one of its busiest weeks under President Barack Obama.

The Pentagon is holding military commission sessions this week for two detainees: a young Canadian going on trial for the slaying of a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan and an aide to Osama bin Laden who is to be sentenced after pleading guilty in a deal with prosecutors.

The tribunal system that ground to a halt after Obama took office is coming alive with lawyers, human-rights observers and more than 30 journalists who are at the U.S. Navy base in southeastern Cuba to attend Monday's proceedings in two courtrooms.

Obama has introduced some changes designed to extend more legal protections to detainees, but the tribunals' long-term future remains cloudy as the president struggles to fulfill a pledge to close the prison altogether.

The trial for Omar Khadr, the Toronto-born son of an alleged al-Qaida financier, is expected to begin Tuesday following pre-



A U.S. Navy personnel is seen walking past a monument at Camp Justice, site of the military commission courthouse on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010, where Canadian citizen Omar Khadr is set to be tried for war crimes at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

trial hearings.

It is to be the first trial under Obama and only the third at Guantanamo, where the system that former President George W. Bush established for prosecuting terror suspects after the 9/11 attack has faced repeated legal

setbacks and challenges.

Khadr is accused of lobbing a grenade that killed U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Speer of Albuquerque, New Mexico, during a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan. He faces a maximum life sentence if convicted of

charges including murder, conspiracy and spying.

His lawyers deny he threw the grenade and argue that Khadr, the last Westerner at Guantanamo, deserves leniency because he was only 15 when he was captured. They contend the

Haitian children resort to begging in DR after quake

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—From the white-sand beaches at the edge of all-inclusive resorts to the gritty streets of the capital, more Haitian children are begging on the streets of the Dominican Republic—a sign that the economic gulf between the neighboring nations has grown wider since the Jan. 12 earthquake.

The Senate has yet to confirm Palmer. It has been expected to take up the matter once senators return from a summer break Sept. 7.

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Patrick Duddy,

who recently ended

his assignment in Venezuela.

Chavez

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accusing the U.S. leader of plotting to oust him and once likening Bush to the devil.

Palmer, who has served as

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Overdrive

Nismo just one of Nissan's alluring 370Z options

By BARRY SPYKER
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS



Nissan's Nismo 370Z

As if Z lovers needed any more incentive, there are several reasons to rejoice this year over the 370Z. First, there's the track-inspired Nismo, more powerful than the 350Z of 2008 and longer with its resculpted downward-pointed nose.

Then, one year after Nissan completely redesigned the Z, comes the roadster for those who seek sun on the face and wind in the hair. This baby has a sleek-looking soft top that folds down—automatically this year—and has a stiffer ride with quick-responding shocks.

And for the classic Z lovers, this word just in: Nissan is introducing the 40th anniversary edition, complete with compulsory badging (embroidered seat backs and floor mats) and equipped with a sport package, 19-inch wheels, splashy red leather inside—and Nissan even throws in a satin car cover.

Lots of decisions for new Z lovers as well as those who recall when, 40 years ago in October of 1969, the Datsun 240Z invaded North America. It was a Japanese sports car that could be driven every day and was affordable to nearly every enthusiast—how can you beat \$3,626?

So what's not to like, beyond the current price that's tenfold of the old days? Well, there are a few other cautions to consider.

First off, some will find the 370Z a harsh, jarring ride. If you plan to commute with it, especially the sportier Nismo that I drove for a week, the coffee in the cup holder better have a lid. I found the stiffer suspension too jarring for daily commutes but, admittedly, I'm a couple of decades older than many who will be flying in the Nismo. Maybe they're more forgiving.

The 370Z also comes with a high level of road noise, loud enough that a cell phone conversation was a real challenge. The Nismo's 19-inch wheels and high-performance tires contribute to that noise. Said one caller during a turnpike run: "I give up—can you call me back later?"

Running through the Nismo's six-speed shifter also is a rougher-than-

average experience. Never mind that Nissan says it has reduced the vibration and noise considerably by modifying the lever angle of the shifter.

"C'mon, Spyke, it's a sports car," you say. "What's a little noise and a stiffer ride?" Well, this is true. It is a two-seater with 300-plus hp in a rear-wheel-drive and it is undeniably sexy, whether you go with the Nismo or Roadster. And it's still priced in the affordable \$30,000 range.

The Nismo gets a downturned nose that protrudes about six inches further than the previous generation. From a profile, 19-inch wheels fill the wells and it bears resemblance to the iconic Porsche 911.

The Z comes with a high-revving 3.7-liter V-6 that is mated to either a 6-speed manual or 7-speed automatic. Only the manual tranny is available

in the Nismo, which also has a more powerfully tuned version of this fourth-generation engine, upgraded brakes and a larger rear wing.

Jump on it, and the Nismo responds to the tune of 0-60 in just over 5 seconds. The coupe is said to do it in 5.1

NUTS & BOLTS

Base Price (Coupe): \$30,410
Nismo: \$39,850
Roadster: \$37,690

seconds, the roadster in 5.5. The Nismo develops 18 more horses (350 hp) than the Coupe and accelerates with 276 pound-feet of torque.

Road handling is better than ever. Nissan trimmed around 100 pounds of fat from the 350Z and lowered the en-

gine a bit to give the car a lower center of gravity. All that, plus the stiffer suspension, means flat cornering and terrific grip. Tackling an off-ramp at 50—don't try this at home—was smooth and uneventful.

Regulating speed in the Nismo is a cinch with a tranny aided by Nissan's SynchroRev Match, which automatically adjusts engine speed when shifting to the next gear. This offers a neat sounding rev and makes every driver shift like a pro. In other words, there's no thump when you pop the clutch.

For the confident shifter, this can be deactivated with a button next to the shift knob. The 7-speed automatic, by the way, offers the steering-column shift paddles but, remember, it's not available with the Nismo version.

Brakes, which include ABS with

brake assist, are superb in bringing this speedster to a halt.

EPA-rated mileage is at 18 mpg around town, 25 mpg on the highway. That 25 is optimistic and only if you behave.

Inside the Z is cockpit that screams sports car. A full-length center console separates passenger from driver. Gauges are 15 percent bigger than the previous generation and they are angled for better view through the three-spoke wheel.

Cloth seats are of a nonslip fabric that keeps you sticking to the seat on corners. Interiors also are available with leather trim and fake-but-nice suede. Optional aluminum pedals with rubber inserts keep your foot from slipping off.

Behind the two seats is a small storage area to cram some stuff. But what really impressed me were the four—hope I didn't miss one—cup holders. Many sports cars don't even bother with one.

Beyond the ABS, the Z offers traction and stability control as standard, plus front-seat side-impact air bags, side-curtain bags and active head restraints.

The new Z comes arrives this year as a two-seat coupe or the soft-top roadster. Get the base coupe with 18-inch alloy wheels, xenon headlights, tilt steering wheel and four-speaker sound system. The Touring version adds leather and fake-but-nice suede, power seats, upgraded Bose sound system and satellite radio.

The sporty Nismo gets 19-inch wheels, high performance tires, limited-slip differential, more power and better brakes, too.

The Roadster is much like the Coupe but gets the power-driven ragtop. And, if you like a bargain, know that it's only a hundred bucks more than last year's 350Z Roadster.

And don't forget the 40th anniversary edition, available now with all its badges, for the nostalgic and collectors.

True, Nissan's not making it easy this year: Sporty coupe, racy Nismo, sexy Roadster or collectible 40th anniversary edition.

Using wrong fluid can damage car

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I put a small amount of power-steering fluid into the brake-fluid container of my car by mistake. Please let me know whether it would cause any problem with my brake system and what I should do to correct it.

ANSWER: Most brake fluid is glycol-based—the exception being silicone brake fluids used in some high-performance vehicles—and power-steering fluid is petroleum-based. They are not compatible. Exposure to petroleum products can cause rubber brake components to swell, leading to potentially serious problems.

In cases where contamination has just occurred, the brake system needs to be completely drained, flushed with denatured alcohol, refilled and bled with the proper brake fluid. In this case, quickly siphoning the master cylinder reservoir may remove most of the power steering fluid. If contamination has spread throughout the hydraulic system, you'll have to replace or rebuild major brake components, including the antilock braking system's hydraulic control unit.

Q: I have a 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan with a 3.3-liter V6 engine and 116,000 miles on it that I bought new. My problem is a mild miss at idle

when the engine has been restarted after it has warmed up. It will do this in gear or neutral at idle, but does not miss at any rpm above idle or while you are driving it. It was tuned up last year with new platinum plugs and wires, and the dealer cleaned the throttle body. It does not miss after a cold start. The check-engine light hasn't come on. Fuel economy has been pretty constant since new.

A: Are you sure it's a misfire? With the engine warmed up, any significant misfire should trigger a diagnostic trouble code, lighting up the check-engine light. Make sure the new spark plugs are the correct double-platinum original-equipment plugs.

Start by checking with a scan tool for stored fault codes. If none, check for a leaking fuel injector or fuel-pressure regulator with a fuel-pressure leak-down test. If residual fuel pressure drops rapidly after shutting off the engine, pinch off the fuel supply and return lines near the firewall with soft-jawed vise grips and retest. If pressure at the fuel rail drops rapidly after shutdown, look for a leaking fuel injector. If pressure holds at the fuel rail, look for a fuel pump or fuel pressure regulator problem in the fuel tank.

Check to make sure the evaporative emission system purge valve is operating properly, and that there is no intake system vacuum leak.

Also, check cylinder compression or have an electrical cylinder balance test performed. A weak cylinder, leaking valve or worn camshaft could also cause this symptom.

■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 2003 Hyundai XG350 with 80,000 miles. In the past six months, I have noticed some clunking in the automatic shifting when I accelerate to about 20 miles an hour. It will happen in winter and summer, unless I accelerate quickly or unless I let the car warm up a bit.

A: The dealer's service computer can check for transmission fault codes and perform sophisticated diagnostics on the quality of each upshift. It may be possible to reprogram the adaptive values in the transmission control module.

It's also worth checking both front-drive axles and their constant-velocity joints along with the engine/transaxle mounts for wear and play.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Cadillac Escalade most likely to catch thief's eye

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—The blinged-out Cadillac Escalade SUV, a favorite of A-listers like Tiger Woods, is once again the vehicle voted most likely to be stolen, according to an insurance industry group.

The F-250 crew cab pickup, Infiniti G37 two-door car, Dodge Charger with its high-power HEMI engine and Chevrolet Corvette Z06 round out the list of the top five vehicles most likely to be the subject of insurance theft claims. Least-likely targets of thieves are family vehicles like the Volvo S80, Saturn Vue and Nissan Murano, Honda Pilot and Subaru Impreza.

The Highway Loss Data Institute, which is part of the Arlington-based Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, calculated theft claim rates for vehicles from the 2007-2009 model years. The data reports thefts per insured vehicles on the road.

The Escalade, which starts at \$62,495, has ranked as the most-stolen in six of the last seven reports. A theft claim is filed for one out of every 100 insured Escalades, the group said, and the average insurance payout is

\$11,934. That compares with an average of \$6,883 for all vehicles.

Almost one in every four Escalade theft claims is for \$40,000 or more. Escalades are equipped with antitheft ignition immobilizers that prevent them from being started without a special key, but that doesn't prevent some thieves from hauling them away on flatbed trucks, said Kim Hazelbaker, senior vice president of the Highway Loss Data Institute.

"Thieves are after chrome, horsepower and HEMIs," she said.

Large SUVs like the Escalade have the highest overall theft losses, with large pickups second. Hazelbaker said trucks are targeted for various reasons. In addition to their looks, large pickups can be used for work or they might be carrying valuable tools or cargo.

The Institute said the frequency of theft claims for cars and SUVs has been declining since 1998. Pickup thefts also had been on the downswing until 2006, when the Institute noticed an uptick in claims.

Two-door minicars are the least likely group to be targeted.

Life & Style

1997 South Africa dinner raises diamond questions

By MICHELLE FAUL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The party to raise money for Nelson Mandela's children's charity started with an odd guest list: Dining among the celebrities was Liberian warlord Charles Taylor, also known as the "Butcher of Monrovia."

Before the night was over, supermodel Naomi Campbell says she had been given a pouch of "dirty-looking stones" by two men who knocked on her door as she slept.

Now South African authorities want to know why the man she passed them to aboard a luxury train kept the precious stones for 13 years—and whether they are "blood diamonds."

Prosecutors hope details from that star-studded dinner at the presidential mansion on Sept. 26, 1997—and what transpired later that night—will help prove Taylor traded in illegally mined diamonds to arm rebels in Sierra Leone.

The man who received the uncut stones, a well-respected South African businessman, Jeremy Ratcliffe, finally handed them over to authorities on Thursday after Campbell testified in Taylor's war crimes trial under threat of contempt.

On Friday, tests determined with certainty that they are indeed diamonds.

"They were taken to the Diamond Board for authenticating and yes, they are diamonds and they are authentic," Musa Zondi, a spokesman for the police special investigations unit, told The Associated Press.

But whether diamond experts will be

able to trace their origins to the West African conflict zone remains far from clear.

In South Africa, the mere possession of a rough diamond is illegal because of possible links to conflict zones, money-laundering and other crimes—raising questions about whether Ratcliffe or even the 40-year-old Campbell could face legal proceedings.

"Obviously if a person is in possession of uncut diamonds in this country, that person has contravened the law. We will investigate the possible contravention," Zondi said, adding that anyone found guilty could be fined up to \$34,000 or jailed for up to 10 years.

The chances of pinning down the gems' origin are remote, experts say.

There is no science yet for pinpointing the exact geographic origin of a diamond, according to Ricardo Baretzky of the South African firm Dialab, whose company has patented a method for taking a kind of "DNA" test of a diamond's carbon print.

This could be used in the future to create a database of diamonds and help ensure a particular diamond is conflict-free, but that is still in the development stages, Baretzky said.

A photograph of the guests at the 1997 soiree at Mandela's presidential



In this image made from television Naomi Campbell is seen holding the bible being sworn in at the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in Leidschendam, Netherlands, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010. AP

mansion shows the then 27-year-old Campbell, at the height of her supermodel success, looking elegant in a white gown with spaghetti straps, a large crucifix around her neck. Beside her stood Taylor, his arm outstretched and a big grin on his face.

Also in the photo are President Mandela, his hand gripping that of Graca Machel, his future wife, as well as music producer Quincy Jones, actress Mia Farrow, Hong Kong actor Tony Leung and Pakistani cricket legend Imran Khan and his wife at the time, English socialite Jemima Khan.

It's hard to see where Taylor fits in with this celebrity crowd.

Taylor had only just been elected Liberia's president. But before that he had invaded Liberia in 1989 and was the architect of back-to-back civil wars that would ultimately kill some 200,000 people until 2003. He is also accused of trading guns to rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone in exchange for uncut diamonds during that country's 1992-2002 civil war, which left more than 100,000 dead.

In Liberia, Taylor drafted children into his army and had them drugged to perform horrific acts including cannibalism. Taylor's men systematically raped, razed, slaughtered and maimed,

and journalists had been writing of his alleged atrocities for years by 1997.

Campbell, who had long been involved in helping Mandela raise money for his charities, testified Thursday that she had never heard of Taylor, nor of Liberia.

While the country often made front-page news during the war, she apparently had never seen the photos of Taylor's men dressed in drag or wearing Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse masks as they indiscriminately killed children, the elderly, Catholic nuns and other civilians. They twice besieged the capital, Monrovia, in 1991 and 1996—earning him the moniker "Butcher of Monrovia."

Campbell said she received the stones from two men who knocked on her door as she slept in one of the guest villas at Mandela's presidential complex in Pretoria—comfortable two-story structures that are fully staffed, with bedrooms on the upper floor.

The fashion icon said that over breakfast the next morning fellow guests Mia Farrow and Carole White, Campbell's former agent, said the stones must be diamonds and were probably a gift from Taylor.

While Campbell testified she had never heard the term "blood diamonds"

and would never have guessed the "dirty-looking pebbles" were diamonds, she gave them to Ratcliffe in hopes that Mandela's charity could benefit.

Ratcliffe, then head of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, said Friday that he kept the stones and did not report them to authorities in a bid to protect the reputations of Mandela, Campbell and the charity, of which he was a founder and remains a trustee.

"I took them because I thought it might well be illegal for her to take uncut diamonds out of the country," said Ratcliffe, who is former financial director of an international engineering firm and established a foundation that educates underprivileged South African children.

In a statement, Ratcliffe indicated he knew there could be wrongdoing, saying "I told her (Campbell) I would not involve the NMCF (Mandela's children's charity) in anything that could possibly be illegal."

"In the end I decided I should just keep them," he said.

Campbell's testimony may be over, but that dinner in 1997 could still factor at Taylor's war crimes trial: Farrow and White are expected to take the stand in the Netherlands on Monday.

Oscar-winning actress Patricia Neal dies at age 84

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Patricia Neal, the willowy, husky-voiced actress who won an Academy Award for 1963's "Hud" and then survived several strokes to continue acting, died on Sunday. She was 84.

Neal had lung cancer and died at her home in Edgartown, Mass., on Martha's Vineyard, said longtime friend Bud Albers of Knoxville.

Neal was already an award-winning Broadway actress when she won her Oscar for her role as a housekeeper to the Texas father (Mervyn Douglas) battling his selfish, amoral son (Paul Newman).

Less than two years later, she suffered a series of strokes in 1965 at age 39. Her struggle to regain walking and talking is regarded as epic in the annals of stroke rehabilitation. She returned to the screen to earn another Oscar nomi-

nation and three Emmy nominations.

The Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center that concentrates on helping people recover from strokes and spinal cord and brain injuries is named for her in Knoxville, where she grew up.

"She never forgot us after she went to Hollywood," said the 85-year-old Albers, who graduated with Neal from Knoxville High School in 1943.

Whenever she was in town, a bunch of her friends would always get together and have dinner, Albers said. Her family let him know of her death. She had wanted to be in town next week for a golf tournament that benefits the center, he said.

"She was so courageous," he said of her battling back from her illnesses and losing her 7-year-old daughter to measles in 1962. "She always fought back."

She was very much an inspiration."

"You can't give up," she said in a 1999 Associated Press interview. "You sure want to, sometimes."

In 1953, she married Roald Dahl, the British writer famed for "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "James and the Giant Peach" and other tales for children. They had five children. They divorced in 1983 after she learned he was having an affair with her best friend and he died in 1990.

Among Neal's children is Tessa Dahl, who followed in her father's footsteps as a writer. Tessa Dahl's daughter is the model and writer Sophie Dahl.

Friends said her sorrows gave her an inner toughness that brought new power to her screen portrayals.

"I don't lie down. ... I'm fightin' all the way," she said in 1999.



In this April 21, 2008 file photo, actress Patricia Neal is shown during an interview in Nashville, Tenn. Neal, who won an Oscar in 1964 for "Hud" and later fought back from crippling strokes, died Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010, at age 84.

'X-Men' director: Hollywood is killing the superhero movie

By GEOFF BOUCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The clock is ticking on the superhero craze in Hollywood, according to Matthew Vaughn, the director now filming "X-Men: First Class" for Fox in London.

"It's been mined to death and in some cases the quality control is not what it's supposed to be," Vaughn said. "People are just going to get bored of it."

Vaughn, who produced, directed and co-wrote "Kick-Ass," says he pounced on the chance to make a film about the uncanny mutants from Marvel Comics because he expects the current boom in superhero cinema to fizzle out in the near future.

"I've always wanted to do a big-budget superhero film and I think we've kind of crossed the Rubicon with superhero films," Vaughn said. "I think (the opportunity to do one), it's only going to be there two or three more times."

"Then," he added, "the genre is going to be dead for a while because the audience has just been pummeled too much."

Next summer, "X-Men: First Class" will join "Captain America: The First Avenger," "Thor" and "Green Lantern" in a parade of costumed heroes in big-budget films at the cineplex.

Vaughn said audience fatigue is already starting to set in. The subject material can't sustain the Hollywood trample, he said, and the inevitable box-office duds and derivative projects

'Baseball' filmmaker backs belated honor for Pete Rose

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Ken Burns makes sweeping documentaries on subjects including baseball. But he was concise in assessing whether Pete Rose should be in the sport's Hall of Fame.

Rose, who agreed to a lifetime ban from baseball in 1989 that stemmed from gambling, should be honored after he dies, Burns told the Television Critics Association on Wednesday.

"He deserves to be in the Hall of Fame. But he doesn't deserve to know he's in the Hall of Fame," Burns said. "But that's just one person's opinion."

Burns, whose films include "The Civil War" and "The National Parks," appeared at the association's summer meeting to promote PBS' "The Tenth Inning," a follow-up to his 1994 series "Baseball" that also aired on public TV.

The filmmaker said his reluctance to revisit a documentary subject wavered when his beloved Boston Red Sox won the 2004 World Series after a long drought.

But the decision was cemented by the "giant shadow of steroids," as well as issues including the sport's growing ethnic diversity and the effect of big

will mark the end of the gold rush by studios.

"It is a crowded room," Vaughn said. "It's too crowded."

The 39-year-old filmmaker (who is married to German model Claudia Schiffer) is known for a candor that is rare in Hollywood circles.

He had been in talks to direct the third "X-Men" film but that didn't work out (he instead went off to make the underrated "Stardust") and the superhero project went to Brett Ratner ("Rush Hour"), who delivered "X-Men: The Last Stand," the 2006 film that became the biggest money-maker in the franchise despite far more sour reviews than the two previous films.

Vaughn didn't shy away from slagging on Ratner's film: "As it happens, I could have made something a hundred times better than the film that was eventually made," Vaughn told the Daily Telegraph. "It sounds arrogant, but I could have done something with far more emotion and heart."

Vaughn made his mark in movies as the producer of three Guy Ritchie films—"Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," "Snatch" and "Swept Away." He made his directorial debut with "Layer Cake" in 2004. "X-Men: First Class," starring James McAvoy as Charles Xavier (aka Professor X) and Michael Fassbender as Erik Lehnherr (aka Magneto) is due in theaters in June 2011.

'Baseball' filmmaker backs belated honor for Pete Rose

money, he said.

As Burns put it, "2004 made me think about it, steroids made us do it."

"The Tenth Inning" proved to be a challenging narrative to construct because of the drug issue, Burns said.

In examining a glorious season, he said, the film had to recapture the joy but be mindful it was "setting traps" for the subsequent exploration of performance-enhancing drugs and their effect on the sport, players and fans.

The four-hour, two-part "The Tenth Inning" tracks America's national pastime from the early 1990s to the present. It touches on the devastating 1994 strike, the growing importance of Latino and Asian players, baseball's ballooning profits, the exploits of Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds and others, and revelations about drug use.

Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig, managers Felipe Alou and Joe Torre and players Pedro Martinez, Omar Vizquel and Ichiro Suzuki are among those interviewed in the film.

"The Tenth Inning," directed by Burns and Lynn Novick, will air on Sept. 28 and 29 on public TV stations.

Rosie O'Donnell will not replace Oprah, but she will work for her

By YVONNE VILLARREAL
AND JOE FLINT
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Daytime television is about to get Rosie ... O'Donnell, that is.

The comedian will make her return—again—to television hosting on OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network, the network announced Thursday.

"Rosie is an undeniable talent who has captivated TV audiences for nearly 20 years," Oprah Winfrey said in a statement. "She's a true original, who brings her authentic voice, dynamic energy and pure passion to everything she does."

The program, produced by O'Donnell, will be a one-hour daily show based in New York.

"It's an honor and a privilege to work with Oprah Winfrey on



O'Donnell

her network," O'Donnell said in a statement. "I'm excited to be back on daytime television."

When O'Donnell's plans for a comeback first surfaced earlier this year, the idea was that she would take time slots that Winfrey had occupied, not to go to work for Winfrey.

Dick Robertson, one of the veteran television executives who is distributing O'Donnell's show said at that time that there would be a "gaping hole" in daytime television and that no one was better to fill it than O'Donnell. Even O'Donnell said in a statement that her plan was to "build on what Oprah began and excelled at for 25 years, in my own style and with new adaptations and ideas."

Apparently the local television stations pitched by Robertson and Scott Carlin, his partner on the venture, felt differently. The challenge in selling O'Donnell to local TV stations was that she had become something of a lightning rod. Her outspoken personality and political stances on "The View"

ended up overwhelming the image she'd cultivated as "the queen of nice" on her old talk show. Additionally, there is still a lot of bad blood at ABC over how she left "The View"—and Barbara Walters—which likely would have made getting that network's stations to carry her new show a challenge.

From 1996 to 2002, O'Donnell hosted the highly successful daytime talk show "The Rosie O'Donnell Show," for which she earned six Daytime Emmys for outstanding talk show host. She joined the mix on "The View" in 2006, replacing Meredith Viera as co-host and moderator—and challenger to Elizabeth Hasselbeck.

OWN will debut in Jan. 1 on what is currently the Discovery Health Channel.

In Humble Gratitude

for sharing in our grief over the loss of our beloved

†DAVID QUICHOCHO MARATITA



Words are simply not enough to express our heartfelt appreciation for the outpouring of condolences, caring, love, and support that you all extended to us since the untimely and tragic passing of our beloved †DAVID QUICHOCHO MARATITA. We are so grateful for our friends and families who shared our grief through your words of consolation, sharing your fondest memories of David, taking the time to pause and try to comfort us, for the prayers, rosaries, and Masses throughout the Marianas and abroad, for assisting and joining us during the nine days of rosary on Tinian, for your assistance in the preparation for the funeral, for your support (labor, financial, or in-kind) during the rosaries and the funeral, and for joining us at the Eucharistic Celebration and when he was laid to rest in his final resting place.

We wish to extend a special appreciation and acknowledgment to Father Syd Ogumoro, our Techa Serafina King-Nabors, the San Jose Church Choir accompanied by Mr. & Mrs. Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz, former Senator Joseph M. Mendiola, his family and friends for preparing the meals, Mrs. Bobbie C. Borja, her families and friends for the decorations, Mr. Ike Quichocho for a fitting eulogy, and Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz and the Tinian leadership for logistical assistance and presentations in the tribute to David.

Losing David so suddenly has been so hard on us and has left a huge void in our lives. However, we are comforted by the fact that he has touched the lives of so many people and was loved by so many that we are certain that his memory will forever live in the hearts of his many friends and families—as his memory will live within us, too. In gratitude for all that you have done for us, and as you continue to remember David in your prayers, we will also remember you in ours and wish you all God's blessings always.

**Si Yu'us Ma'ase and THANK YOU from
Lucia Blanco-Maratita, children, and families:
Helen Atalig, Sylvia Cepeda, Beverly M. Camacho, Roxanne M. Weaver,
David Wade Maratita, Kevin Maratita, Barrie Maratita,
Matthew B. Blanco, and Winona B. Maratita**



Father's Day 2010

Michelle Obama and Sasha meet Spain's king



From left, Sasha Obama, Spain's King Juan Carlos, U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama, Spain's Queen Sofia and Princess Letizia pose before a lunch at the Marivent Palace, in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010.

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain (AP)—U.S. first lady Michelle Obama and daughter Sasha had lunch with Spain's king and queen on Sunday at the royal family's holiday retreat on the resort island of Mallorca in the Mediterranean.

Mrs. Obama and her daughter arrived at Marivent palace shortly before 1 p.m. and were greeted at the front door of the residence by King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofia and Princess Letizia.

The king, a keen yachtsman, has for decades spent August vacations at the palace with its dramatic cliff-top views of the sea on the Balearic island's southwestern coast near Palma de Mallorca.

Lunch was Andalusian-style chilled gazpacho soup, char-grilled turbot, veal escalopes

with mustard, Oriental rice with sauteed mushrooms, a Mallorca-style vegetable ratatouille and sliced fruit with ice cream, accompanied by wines from the northern regions of Rueda and Rioja, the palace said.

The lunch meeting marked the end of a five-day private visit to Spain by Mrs. Obama, who toured beauty spots in the southern region of Andalusia including Marbella, Ronda and the Alhambra palace in Granada.

The king gave Mrs. Obama some seeds for the White House garden as a parting gift, while the queen made a present of handicrafts typical of Mallorca, the palace said.

After lunch the first lady's party was due to fly back to the United States aboard Air Force Two.

Ferrell's 'Other Guys' tops box office with \$35.6M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Other Guys" are the main guys at the box office, knocking off "Inception" to take the No. 1 spot.

The buddy-cop parody starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg made \$35.6 million in its opening weekend, according to Sunday estimates from Sony Pictures.

It's the second-highest debut for a film in which Ferrell has starred, and yet another strong showing for the movies he's made with his frequent collaborator, writer-director Adam McKay. Their biggest opening was "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," which debuted at No. 1 with \$47 million in August 2006. "Step Brothers" made \$30.9 million and came in second place when it opened in July 2008. And their first film together, "Anchorman: The Legend of



In this film publicity image released by Columbia Pictures, Will Ferrell, left, Mark Wahlberg, and Michael Keaton are shown in a scene from "The Other Guys."

said the studio had a good idea that "The Other Guys" would open at No. 1, but estimated it would make around \$30 million. Ferrell plays a nerdy, uptight New York police detective who'd rather solve crimes from his desk than run into danger on the streets. Wahlberg is his hot-tempered, frustrated partner who's desperate for action, and the supporting cast includes

have a solid track record, Bruer said, because "they're the ultimate funny."

"The chemistry between those two men in regards to comedy is at the top of their game," he said. "They bring out the best of each other."

The fact that "The Other Guys" and "Inception" are both so popular shows that audiences are hungry for a variety of ideas this time of year, said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

"How much different could these two films be? They both have action elements but that's where the comparison between these two films ends," he said. "That's the cool thing about summer movies: They can run the gamut from silly, off-the-wall comedies to serious, intense fare."

The other new movie opening nationwide this weekend, the dance sequel "Step Up 3-D" from Disney and Summit Entertainment, came in third place with \$15.5 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

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The Other Guys

Synopsis

Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg star as cops in this comedy directed by Adam McKay and co-written by McKay and Land of the Lost scribe Chris Henchy, Dwayne Johnson, Samuel L. Jackson, and Steve Coogan co-star.

Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sun through Thurs 1:10 4:20 7:10

Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13

T

Cats and Dogs: Revenge of Kitty Galore

Synopsis

The epic struggle for control of planet Earth continues in this sequel to the 2001 comedy that had pet owners all across the world looking at their house pets in a whole new light. Chris O'Donnell and 30 Rock's Jack McBrayer head up the cast of the production, with scripting duties being handled by Brother Bear's Ron J. Friedman and Steve Bencich.

Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Sun through Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15

Alec Baldwin, Chris O'Donnell
Children's, Family • Rated PG

T

Charlie St. Cloud

Synopsis

Zac Efron reteams with 7 Again's Burr Steers for this adaptation of Ben Sherwood's novel regarding a caretaker of a cemetery who has daily discussions with his deceased brother. Kim Basinger heads up the supporting cast as the young men's mother.

Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30

Zac Efron, Kim Basinger
Drama • Rated PG 13

T

Salt

Dinner For Schmucks

Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
 Sun through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25

Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
Sun through Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05

Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber
Thriller • Rated PG 13

T

Inception

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sun through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
Sun through Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20

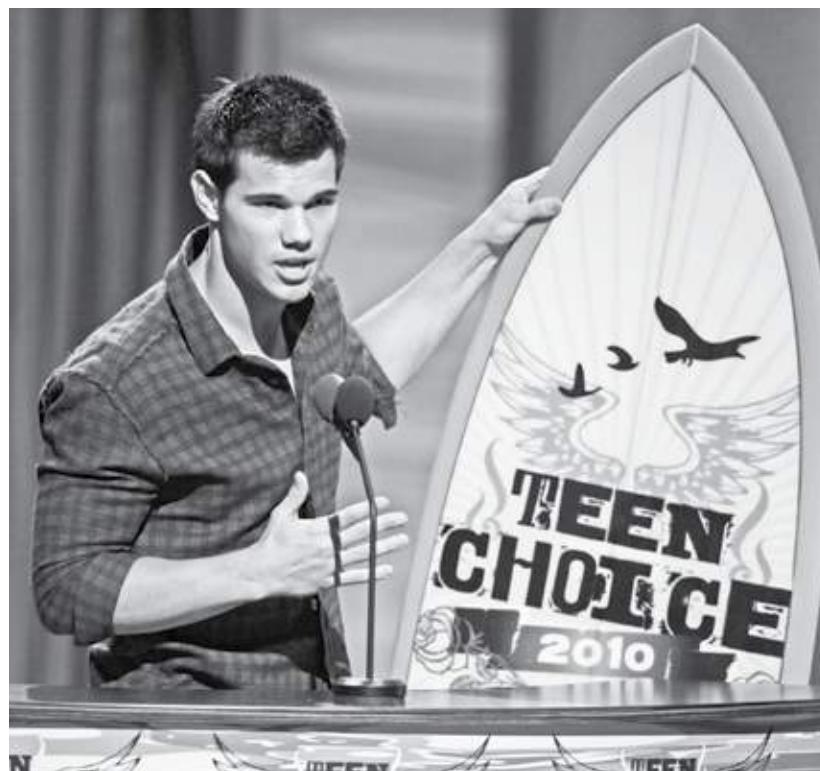
Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel
Fantasy, Children's/family • Rated PG

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'Twilight,' 'Vampire Diaries' dominate Teen Choice

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)—Maybe they should switch the name to the Vampire Choice Awards?

Bloodsuckers again ruled the Teen Choice Awards. "The Twilight Saga" commanded Sunday's ceremony with 11 wins, including choice movie fantasy, villain and chemistry. Meanwhile, the CW's "The Vampire Diaries" sucked up seven surfboard-shaped trophies at the taped ceremony, which is scheduled to air Monday at 8 p.m. EDT on Fox.

The freewheeling ceremony was punctuated with several silly moments, including George Lopez appearing in drag as an older Kardashian sister, Betty White interrupting Sandra Bullock's acceptance speech for choice movie drama actress and host Katy Perry reliving high school days by dressing up as cheerleader, geek, hippie, prom queen and goth.

Actor Taylor Lautner accepts the Choice Smile award at the Teen Choice Awards on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010 in Universal City, Calif. **AP**

Danish royal court says crown princess pregnant

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—The Danish royal court says Denmark's Crown Princess Mary is pregnant and expecting twins.

The court said in a statement Friday that the 38-year-old princess is due in January 2011. She is expected to give birth at Rigshospitalet, the national hospital, in Copenhagen.

The announcement follows weeks of intense media speculation that the princess is pregnant.

The Tasmanian-born princess married Crown Prince Frederik in 2004. The couple already has two children, 4-year-old Christian and 3-year-old Isabella. Crown Princess Mary was named one of the top 10 best-dressed women of 2010 in the September edition of *Vanity Fair*.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Rome to open Colosseum to tourists after dark

ROME (AP)—Gazing at the Colosseum in moonlight can make for a romantic date. Soon tourists will be able to stroll inside the ancient arena on Saturday nights for a limited time only. Rome officials announced on Friday that for seven straight Saturdays starting Aug. 21, visitors can tour the Colosseum with an archaeologist. They will enter in groups of 40 people maximum from 9 p.m. till midnight. Normally, the monument is open only during daytime, but last summer also saw some nighttime tours. This year, night tours will also be offered at the Baths of Caracalla on Saturdays from Aug. 21 until Oct. 23. The towering ruins of the ancient thermal baths has hosted evening entertainment, including the 1990 "Three Tenors" concert with Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras.

ADL: Fareed Zakaria returns award over WTC mosque

NEW YORK (AP)—The Anti-Defamation League says colum-

Judge grants Sandra Bullock restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge granted Sandra Bullock a three-year restraining order Friday against a man who has a history of stalking her and allegedly traveled cross-country to try to meet the actress after being released from a mental hospital.

After his release earlier this year, he traveled to Wyoming in an alleged attempt to meet the actress, according to Bullock's attorney Ed McPherson.

Bullock was committed indefinitely to a state mental hospital in Wyoming on Tuesday.

"It's obvious that this fixation on her has not changed despite seven years in the hospital in Tennessee," McPherson said.

Bullock did not attend Friday's hearing.

Robbie Williams marries US actress in LA

LONDON (AP)—British pop singer Robbie Williams has married U.S. actress Ayda Field in his Beverly Hills mansion. Spokesman Murray Chalmers said in a statement Sunday that the pair held

a ceremony on the grounds of their home in Los Angeles on Saturday.

People.com reported that a small group of 75 guests attended the 36-year-old singer's wedding.

Williams is hugely popular in



Bullock

actress in LA

Britain and the rest of Europe, first as a member of the boy band Take That in the 1990s, and later when he pursued a solo singing career. He is known for such hits as "Millennium" and "Rock DJ."

nist and TV host Fareed Zakaria has returned a First Amendment award to the group in protest of the organization's opposition to a proposed mosque near ground zero. The ADL said in a statement Friday that it was "saddened" and "stunned" by Zakaria's decision. The group says Zakaria said in a letter that he couldn't "in good conscience" keep the league's Hubert H. Humphrey First Amendment Freedoms Prize that he was awarded in 2005. Zakaria, a Newsweek and Washington Post columnist and CNN host, didn't immediately return messages seeking comment. The ADL is the leading Jewish civil rights group in the U.S. It has said the location of the planned mosque is "counterproductive to the healing process" but says it rejects any opposition to the center based on bigotry.

Bernie Mac's widow sues comedian's doctor

CHICAGO (AP)—Comedian Bernie Mac's widow has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Chicago against the late comedian's long-time doctor. Rhonda McCullough alleges that a few weeks before Mac's 2008 death, dermatologist Rene M. Earles didn't recognize indications of respiratory failure and kept the 50-year-old at the clinic for several hours rather than call an ambulance. Earles tells the Chicago Sun-Times he treated Mac that day. He says Mac appeared weak, had a low-grade fever and a rash. He says after Mac told him another doctor had given him an injection for a

cold, he called Mac's doctor and was told Mac had been diagnosed with pneumonia in both lungs. He says he immediately advised Mac to go to a hospital and that Mac was taken to one in a chauffeur-driven vehicle.

Badu brings funk during short Lollapalooza set

CHICAGO (AP)—Erykah Badu fulfilled a dream in her performance at the Lollapalooza music festival. During her hour-long set Sunday in Chicago, the Grammy award-winning singer shared a story with fans sprawled across the field. When the kids at school were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up, the 39-year-old Badu says, "One little girl said 'I wanna be a doctor.' One little girl said, 'I wanna be a mall security.' One girl said, 'I just want my daddy to come home.'"

Badu recalled saying, "I just wanna be funky." And on the festival's last day, she was. She delivered flute-inflected songs from "New Amerykah Part Two (Return of the Ankh)," released earlier this year, along with a jazzy version of 1997 hit "On & On."

Woman dating 'best friend' is kept hidden from his kids

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been romantically involved with my best friend, "Ray," for three years. We dated for a couple of years 14 years ago. He got a girl pregnant right before we started dating, and they ended up getting married and having four more children. We remained friends and began seeing each other after they divorced three years ago.

Ray says he has always been in love with me and should have married me. We're very close and spend as much time together as we can.

For the past year I have been asking when I'll meet his children. He keeps saying I need to be patient and when the time is right I can. We live in different cities.

Ray is a great dad—very involved in his children's lives. He has them during the week, and on weekends, coaches basketball for his son, and takes them to their different activities, etc. I understand they are his first priority. I just wish he'd include me in that part of his life.

Ray says he wants to marry me. We discuss it often and plan on living together in the near future. I feel he doesn't want me to be a part of his life that involves the children. They range in age from 13 to 3 1/2. They know I exist because he has my picture by his bed, but he says they don't ask about me. Am I being "too" patient?

REALITY CHECK IN KANSAS

DEAR REALITY: Are you absolutely certain that Ray is divorced? It seems strange to me that after three years you still haven't met his children. Or does he plan to have you move in and "surprise" them? That would be a big mistake.

If my suspicions are wrong and Ray is on the up and up, tell him you need him to set a definite timeline. You have been patient long enough.

DEAR ABBY: My cousin "Cassidy" met a man I'll call "Lenny" online and they started dating. When I met him a few months later, I recognized him as the man who had sexually assaulted two women I knew in college. He was convicted of these crimes, did time in jail and is a registered sex offender.

I was horrified and unsure about how to tell Cassidy. It turns out Lenny told her before they started dating, but she chose to date him anyway. They were married at the courthouse two years ago, a few weeks before my own wedding. I did not invite Lenny, and my cousin posted a nasty message online about it. When we are at family functions, I ignore him as much as I possibly can.

Although their marriage is not a good one, Cassidy is planning a formal wedding in a few months. I am torn. I don't support this, and besides, they are already married. If I don't attend, I'm afraid it will cause a big rift in my family.

Should I suck it up and put myself in a situation that makes me sick to my stomach? Or should I stay away with the possibility of upsetting those I care about?

RELUCTANT RELATIVE IN THE MIDWEST

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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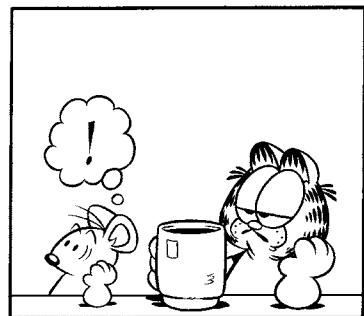
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



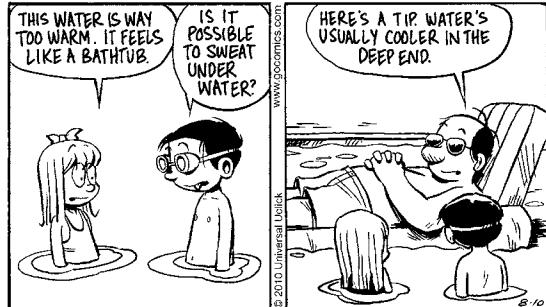
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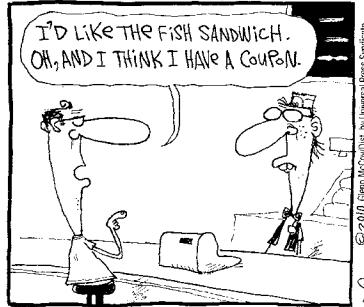
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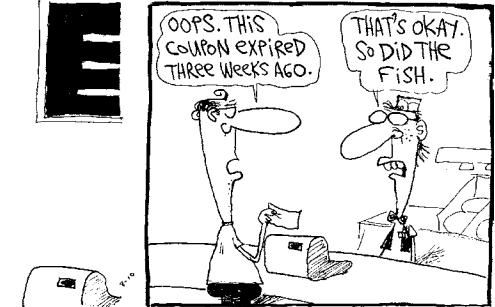
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	33	Points of perspective	DOWN	21	Czech or Croat
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30	evidence	Across	31	golf goal	symptom
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70					the youngsters
71					and elders in
72					your life. It's
73					time to
74					focus on what
75					makes you happy.
76					Live, love and
77					enjoy. ☀☀☀☀
78					TAURUS (April 20-May 20):
79					With less
80					work and more
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94					makes you happy.
95					Live, love and
96					enjoy. ☀☀☀☀
97					SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22):
98					Interference
99					can be expected
100					if you try to do too
101					much. Ask for help
102					but only from those who owe
103					you for past favors. Don't allow
104					emotional issues to
105					cloud your vision or cause you to
106					take a pass on
107					something you really want to do. ☀☀
108					GEMINI (May 21-June 20):
109					Taking action
110					will bring you respect and the help
111					needed to complete your goals.
112					Love is in the stars and, single or not,
113					you should be building a better relationship with the one you
114					love or getting involved in interests that can lead
115					you to a potential partner. ☀☀☀☀
116					CANCER (June 21-July 22):
117					Don't be afraid to do things differently but, at the
118					same time, be prepared to deal with op-
119					GEMINI (May 21-June 20):
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169					love or getting involved in interests that can lead
170					you to a potential partner. ☀☀☀☀
171					CANCER (June 21-July 22):
172					Don't be afraid

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Mahan wins at Firestone, earns Ryder Cup spot



AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Hunter Mahan is doing things he never imagined possible, on and off the golf course.

He thought it was “crazy talk” when friends told him he would know immediately when he fell in love, until he met former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader Kandi Harris in December and proposed to her in June.

How about beating Tiger Woods by 30 shots at Firestone?

“I never, ever thought that would be possible,” Mahan said Sunday, stifling a laugh at the absurdity of it all. “It never crossed my mind. It’s definitely different.”

Some six hours after Woods finished off the worst tournament of his career, Mahan looked better than ever in the Bridgestone Invitational. He ran off five birdies on the front nine to make up a four-shot deficit, delivered three clutch pars down the stretch to protect his lead and closed with a 6-under 64 for a two-shot victory over Ryan Palmer that brought plenty of perks.

Mahan earned \$1.4 million to lock up a spot on the U.S. Ryder Cup team, one of his primary goals this year.

He won his first World Golf Championship title and moved to No. 12 in the world ranking, a big step toward joining the elite in golf. And he won for the second time this year, becoming the fifth player this year with multiple victories on the PGA Tour.

“The last couple of weeks, the game has been good,” said Mahan, who won the Phoenix Open in February by shooting 65 in the final round. “I knew it was there. I know I just had to keep going and keep trust it. This weekend, I definitely just kind of let everything go and just had some fun.”

It was anything but that for Woods.

He had won seven times in his last nine starts at Firestone. He had not shot over par since 2006. But in a week that showed just how lost he is amid a personal life in chaos, Woods shot 77 on Sunday to finish at 18-over 298. It was his highest score on the PGA Tour as a professional or an amateur. He tied for 78th in the 80-man field, his worst finish ever.

He wasn’t even sure if he was worthy for the Ryder Cup.

“No one would help the team if they’re shooting 18-over par,” Woods

Hunter Mahan holds the trophy after winning the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010, in Akron, Ohio.

AP



said before flying up to Whistling Straits to sneak in a practice round for the PGA Championship next week.

Phil Mickelson looked just as bad Sunday. With his best chance ever to replace Woods at No. 1 in the world—Mickelson was tied for 10th and needed to finish alone in fourth—the Masters champion sprayed shots all over Firestone on his way to a 78.

It was the first time since the 1998 British Open that Woods and Mickelson both shot 77 or higher in the same round.

“It was a rough day, if you couldn’t tell,” he said. For Mahan, it was mostly smooth sailing.

His 64 was the lowest final round by a winner since the Bridgestone Invitational became a WGC event in 1999.

“This is one of the bigger tournaments we play all year,” Mahan said. “And it’s definitely the best win of my career.”

The birdies were brilliant. The pars won him the tournament.

“I knew if I didn’t make a bogey I’d be all right,” said Mahan, who finished at 12-under 268.

The 28-year-old still managed to make it interesting, especially on the par-5 16th, which always seems to factor in this tournament. It’s where Woods has delivered so many pivotal shots over the years, where Padraig Harrington took an 8 in the final round last year.

Mahan was in the fairway, 227 yards away on a hole that had been shortened to 602 yards for the final round. He figured the only place he couldn’t miss was short in the pond. To go long and right into the gallery would still leave him a simple shot to the green.

“I did not count on hitting it right and long, and into a flower bush,” he said.

That’s where he went, over the bleachers, over everything, and into a flower bed. Because it was deemed to be part of the cement cart path complex, he was given a free drop in the walkway to the 17th tee. He played it safe, chipping through the green and into the fairway, then putted to 3 feet to save par.

Before that, he holed a 15-foot par on the 15th. On the next hole, he saved his most intense fist pump for

an 8-foot par on the 17th.

Palmer couldn’t catch him.

Two shots behind, he missed a 12-foot birdie on the 16th and a 20-footer on the 17th to end his hopes. Palmer closed with a 69.

“I can’t be disappointed,” Palmer said. “I played good today being under the gun. You’ve got to hand it to Hunter Mahan. He went out and did what I expected somebody to do, and shot a low round. I didn’t lose the golf tournament.”

Retief Goosen, the 36-hole leader until a triple bogey on the opening hole Saturday, closed with a 65 and tied for third with Bo Van Pelt, who shot a 67.

Sean O’Hair, who shared the 54-hole lead with Palmer, shot 71 and wound up alone in fifth.

Since winning in Phoenix, Mahan had only one top 10 and missed four straight cuts. Part of that might have been related to proposing to his fiancee at Pebble Beach a week before the U.S. Open, and planning for a wedding in January.

Indeed, this is shaping up to be quite a year.

Owens feels he should still be Cowboy



CANTON, Ohio (AP)—Terrell Owens believes he should still be playing for the Dallas Cowboys.

Instead, Owens was playing wide receiver against them Sunday night as a member of the Cincinnati Bengals in the Hall of Fame game that opened the NFL preseason.

“You have to take the bitter with the sweet, and you move on,” Owens said. “Do I think I should probably be there? Yeah.”

“It was short-lived. I was prematurely let go. Things like that happen.”

Owens spent three years in Dallas, one of five stops during his career that is about to enter a 15th season. He caught 235 passes for 3,587 yards and 38 touchdowns as a Cowboy.

Even though he received a four-year contract extension before the 2008 season, he was released by the Cowboys at the end of the season amid headlines that he feuded with quarterback Tony Romo and offensive coordinator Jason Garrett.

“There’s no turning back or going back or redoing anything,” Owens said. “Again, I still stand by the things that I said and what was done. I know that honestly it wasn’t my fault.”

He played for Buffalo in 2009 and signed with the Bengals when training camp started this year. He remains confident he still is a playmaker and will show that while combining with good friend Chad Ochocinco and another Bengals newcomer, Antonio Bryant.

“I feel confident about myself and what I can still do on the football field even at the age of 36,” Owens said.

“With me in here, obviously there are expectations of getting the ball downfield. With myself, Chad and Antonio, we bring a vertical presence to the offense. With us being three different types of receivers, that brings three different dynamics to this offense.”

Before Sunday night’s game, he spent time catching passes from Carson Palmer and other Bengals. He spent even more time chatting on the field with members of the Cowboys, often laughing and joking around.

“I still have some great friends there,” he said. “I think everybody is aware of what happened down there. I think a lot of people know that there were some unfortunate things that happened there.”

Still, Owens has departed on unfavorable terms from previous stops in San Francisco and Philadelphia, where he had issues with quarterbacks Jeff Garcia and Donovan McNabb. He had little impact in Buffalo last year, but his career statistics could be Hall of Fame worthy.

Indeed, Owens said during training camp that the only thing missing for him in Canton is a Hall of Fame bust.

Basketball stars, Obama play hoops for troops



WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama pulled together an informal dream team of current and former basketball superstars Sunday. But only a few people got to see it.

LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Carmelo Anthony and other NBA all-stars joined Obama in Washington to entertain wounded troops.

The present-day stars were joined by some retired legends, including Bill Russell and Magic Johnson. College player Maya Moore of the Connecticut Huskies women’s team also played.

The game was played for a group of “wounded warriors”—troops injured in action—and participants in the White House’s mentoring program. It took place at a gym inside Washington’s Fort McNair, a short drive from the White House. The president was inside the gym for about two hours.

Celtics’ Allen likes Shaq signing, team’s underdog role

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP)—Ray Allen says there is room in Boston for the Big Diesel and the Big Three.

The Celtics guard, speaking Saturday before a charity basketball game in Connecticut, said he believes Shaquille O’Neal is a good fit in Boston’s quest to repeat as Eastern Conference champion.

The 7-foot-1, 325-pound center signed a two-year contract worth about \$3 million on Wednesday.

“It’s definitely interesting to me,

because I think he can help us,” Allen said. “One of our bad traits this past year was offensive rebounding and rebounding in general, and he’s a guy that takes up a lot of space, so I definitely think he can help us.”

Allen said he wasn’t sure he would be returning to Boston after the NBA finals. A good friend, he said, was even sending him advertisements of houses for sale in Miami.

“I don’t think anybody’s mind had to be changed,” he said. “I think once

ers joined Obama and a group of his friends for a barbecue at the White House, capping the president’s 49th birthday week.

A small tent and tables decorated with sunflowers and yellow and white tablecloths were being set up on the South Lawn when Obama returned

the dust settled, we all had to understand what our stance was. Everybody took a look and said, ‘We still have something good here, and we don’t want to give it away.’”

Allen said he’s looking forward to the battles with LeBron James and Miami, and likes being in the underdog role, rather than the team with the bulls-eye on its back.

“It was hard in ‘08 when everyone gave us the trophy every corner that we turned,” he said.

from playing basketball. The White House said the meal will include shrimp from the Gulf of Mexico.

First lady Michelle Obama and daughter Sasha returned to the White House on Sunday night after a vacation in Spain. The Obamas’ older daughter, Malia, is away at summer camp.

Morrow loses no-hit bid in ninth as Jays beat Rays



TORONTO(AP)— Brandon Morrow wasn't about to hang his head after coming inches away from a no-hitter. The Blue Jays pitcher still tossed his first shutout—first complete game, in fact—and struck out a career-high 17 batters.

"Those things combined were more than enough to overcome the feeling of the missed no-hitter," said Morrow, who allowed only Evan Longoria's single with two outs in the ninth inning of a 1-0 victory over Tampa Bay on Sunday. "That would have been a great feat, but I'll start at a complete-game, one-hit shutout with 17 strikeouts."

Longoria said that Morrow deserved the no-hitter, with the way he was mixing a devastating breaking pitch and a mid-90s fastball to plow through the Rays' batting order.

"He was putting guys away better than anybody I've ever seen," Longoria said.

The three-game sweep was crippling for the Rays, who have lost a season-high five straight after briefly moving ahead of the New York Yankees in the AL East earlier in the week.

The crowd of 22,313 gave Morrow a standing ovation as he took the mound in the ninth.

Jason Bartlett flied out to center, Ben Zobrist walked on four pitches and Carl Crawford popped out to bring up Longoria, who took a shaky swing at a 1-1 pitch and hit a grounder the other way. Second baseman Aaron Hill scooted to his left and made a dive as the ball took its third hop, and it fell out of his glove and trickled away as he hit the ground.

"He threw a four-seam fastball away that I fouled off and I saw him shake on the pitch that I got the base hit on, so I just kind of guessed fastball away again," Longoria said. "With the walk and the runner on, that four-hole was open and it just gave me enough room."

Official scorer Dave Perkins, a retired Toronto Star writer working just his third game, wasted no time in making the call.

"I won't lose any sleep over it. That's a base hit all the way," Perkins said.

A disconsolate Hill needed time to cool off before facing reporters.

"Did everything I could, couldn't come up with it," Hill said. "Wish I could have gotten an error or something for it. Unfortunately that's just the way it is."

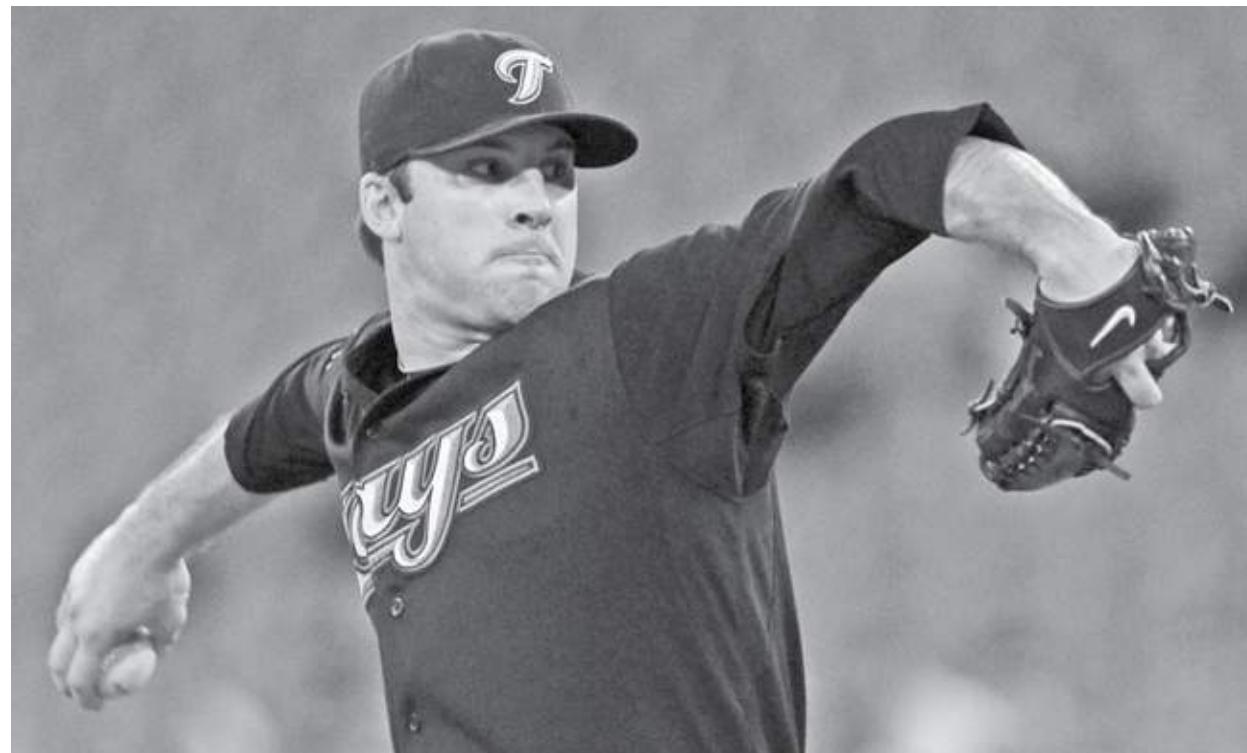
Morrow was drifting toward first base, saw the ball get loose and sagged a bit, putting his hands on his thighs. He then recaptured himself and started toward third base to back up the play—quick thinking, considering the outcome of the game still hung in the balance.

Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston came to the mound but never seemed to consider lifting Morrow from the game. Instead, Morrow promptly stuck out Dan Johnson swinging to end it.

"Cito gave me that chance to calm myself and refocus and say, 'Hey, I still got a chance to throw a shutout and get a 1-0 win and a big division sweep,'" Morrow said.

Johnson said a nasty slider was Morrow's best pitch.

"He was throwing that slider at will. Either you were chasing it and if you weren't chasing it, he was throwing it for strikes," Johnson said. "He had real good action and it was coming out the same way his fastball was."



Lilly was 3-8 in 18 games with the Chicago Cubs before he was traded to Los Angeles on July 31 with second baseman Ryan Theriot.

Braves 6, Giants 3

In Atlanta, Derek Lowe pitched into the sixth inning before leaving with an injury and David Ross hit a two-run homer for the Braves.

Lowe (11-9) was bothered by cramping in his right hamstring. The right-hander allowed two runs and five hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Four relievers combined to finish up, with Takashi Saito tossing a scoreless ninth for his first save of the season.

Omar Infante hit a solo homer for Atlanta, which won three of four in the series and has won four of five overall. The NL East-leading Braves also improved their major league-best home record to 39-15 and maintained a two-game lead over Philadelphia, which beat the New York Mets 6-5.

Jonathan Sanchez (8-7) pitched four innings for the Giants, yielding four runs and five hits.

Phillies 6, Mets 5

At Philadelphia, Raul Ibanez sparked a five-run third inning with a three-run homer as Philadelphia backed Roy Halladay with a dozen hits.

Ibanez clubbed a hanging knuckleball from R.A. Dickey off the batter's eye. Jayson Werth had three hits, including a solo homer, and Brian Schneider and Ross Gload also drove in runs for Philadelphia.

Halladay (14-8) struggled on an 88-degree afternoon, allowing five runs and nine hits in seven innings. Brad Lidge worked around a leadoff single by Josh Thole for his 14th save in 18 opportunities.

Dickey (7-5) failed to go at least five innings for the first time in 16 starts. He allowed six runs, four earned, in three innings.

Brewers 11, Astros 6

At Milwaukee, Casey McGehee hit a three-run homer and Lorenzo Cain drove in the first three runs of his career as the Brewers completed a three-game series sweep.

McGehee drove a ball into the Brewers' bullpen in left-center field in the fourth to make it 11-4, after just missing a three-run homer in the first with an RBI double off the wall.

Cain, who made his first major league start Friday, hit a sacrifice fly in the first off Wesley Wright (1-2) and chased the left-hander in his next at-bat in the third with a two-run double that gave Milwaukee a 6-2 lead.

Rockies 8, Pirates 4

At Pittsburgh, Carlos Gonzalez hit his 25th homer and finished with four hits, helping the Rockies salvage a split of the four-game series.

Gonzalez went 4 for 5 with his eighth homer in his past 11 games, drove in three runs and scored twice, helping Colorado win for the seventh time in 10 games. He went 9 for 18 in the series.

Summoned from Triple-A to start Sunday, Esmil Rogers (2-2) allowed four runs, three earned, and eight hits in six innings for the Rockies.

Jose Tabata, Neil Walker and Ronny Cedeno each had two hits for the Pirates. Paul Maholm (7-10) lasted just 2 2-3 innings in the loss.

Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Brandon Morrow works against the Tampa Bay Rays during third-inning MLB baseball game action in Toronto, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010.

Morrow got a cooler of water dumped on him by celebrating teammates after one of the most dominating performances in the year of the pitcher. There have already been five no-hitters this season—including two perfect games—and three others broken up in the ninth inning.

Yankees 7, Red Sox 2

At New York, Derek Jeter passed Babe Ruth on the career hits list and drove in three runs and Dustin Moseley filled in admirably for an injured A.J. Burnett as the Yankees beat Boston.

Mark Teixeira hit his 25th homer, becoming the fourth player to hit at least 25 in each of his first eight big league seasons, and Lance Berkman won over Yankees fans with two doubles—and not hitting Alex Rodriguez again.

Rodriguez was back in the lineup a day after he was struck on his left leg by Berkman's grounder during batting practice Saturday and missed the Yankees' win. A-Rod was feeling so good Sunday, he stole his first base since May 8. It was his 300th career steal.

Moseley (2-1) gave up two runs in 1 1-3 innings.

Twins 5, Indians 4

At Cleveland, Jim Thome hit a two-run shot for career homer No. 578 as the Twins rallied for five runs in the fifth to pull within a half-game of the AL Central-leading White Sox.

Thome's drive against his former team came against David Huff (2-11), helping the Twins take two of three in the series and earn their 12th win in 16 games.

Brian Duensing (5-1) pitched a career-high 7 1-3 innings for the Twins, yielding three earned runs and nine hits. Matt Guerrier retired the two men he faced in the eighth and Matt Capps worked a perfect ninth for his second save in three tries since being acquired July 29 from Washington. He had 26 saves with the Nationals.

Orioles 4, White Sox 3

At Baltimore, Jeremy Guthrie outpitched Mark Buehrle as the surging Orioles won for the fifth time in six games under new manager Buck Showalter.

Felix Pie homered for the Orioles, who took the lead for good with a two-run sixth. Since Showalter made his

debut in the dugout Tuesday, Baltimore has swept three games from the Los Angeles Angels and won two of three from the first-place White Sox.

Tigers 9, Angels 4

At Detroit, Johnny Damon drove in three runs, while Alex Avila and Will Rhymes had two RBIs apiece as the Tigers ended a four-game losing streak.

Rick Porcello (5-10) allowed three runs, two earned, and eight hits in six innings to earn his first win since May 23. Damon hit a two-run single in the eighth and Austin Jackson drove in a run with a base hit as the Tigers increased their lead to 9-4.

Mariners 3, Royals 2

At Seattle, Jason Vargas allowed one run in six solid innings to win his seventh game at home, while Casey Kotchman's two-run single in the sixth gave Seattle the lead for good.

Vargas (8-5) improved to 7-2 at Safeco Field this season, taking a shutout into the sixth inning. It was his second consecutive victory after going more than a month without a win.

Kansas City starter Kyle Davies (5-7) was Vargas' equal until the sixth inning when he gave up three straight one-out hits. The last single, a liner up the middle by Kotchman, scored Ichiro Suzuki and Chone Figgins with the go-ahead runs.

Figgins added a bit of insurance in the eighth with an RBI single to score Suzuki.

Athletics 3, Rangers 2

At Oakland, Kurt Suzuki hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the seventh inning and Trevor Cahill allowed six hits through eight as the Athletics beat the first-place Rangers.

Rajai Davis and Coco Crisp also drove in runs for the A's, who won for the eighth time in their last 10 home games. Josh Hamilton and Nelson Cruz drove in runs for the Rangers, who have lost four of their last seven.

Cahill (12-4) won his fifth straight against the Rangers despite allowing two unearned runs in the sixth. Michael Wuertz pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Darren Oliver (0-1) started the seventh, and gave up a single to Chad Pen-

nnington and an RBI double to Crisp before leaving the game.

Reds 11, Cubs 4

At Chicago, Joey Votto and Jonny Gomes scored four runs apiece to back a strong start by Travis Wood as the Cincinnati Reds beat the Chicago Cubs for their ninth win in 11 games.

Wood (3-1) took a no-hitter into the sixth inning before fading late. Votto backed him with a two-run homer in the eighth and had two hits, while Gomes set a career high with four walks, coming around each time. He also singled late in the game but did not score.

Jay Bruce added three hits, including a two-run double in the first, as the Reds had 13 in all while completing the weekend sweep with an easy victory.

Cincinnati increased its lead in the NL Central to two games over St. Louis, which was rained out in Florida, and will host the Cardinals in the opener of a three-game set Monday night.

Padres 10, Diamondbacks 1

At Phoenix, Mat Latos pitched six scoreless innings in a combined three-hitter and Jerry Hairston Jr. created havoc from the leadoff spot to help San Diego avoid a three-game sweep by the last-place Diamondbacks.

San Diego was in dire need of a win after losing six of nine, including two against Arizona. The Padres got it behind a four-run fourth inning off Joe Saunders (1-1) and another solid outing by Latos (12-5).

Hairston had three hits, including his ninth homer, scored four runs and drove in two. Chris Denorfia hit a two-run homer and Adrian Gonzalez added two RBIs for San Diego, which moved two games ahead in the NL West after San Francisco's earlier loss at Atlanta.

Dodgers 8, Nationals 3

At Los Angeles, Ted Lilly overcame a rough start to win his second straight outing with Los Angeles, and the Dodgers capitalized on two Washington errors during a four-run first.

Lilly (5-8) pitched six innings in his 300th major league game and 275th start, allowing three runs and six hits, including back-to-back homers by Michael Morse and Justin Maxwell in the second.

Atmosphere was 3-8 in 18 games with the Chicago Cubs before he was traded to Los Angeles on July 31 with second baseman Ryan Theriot.

CNMI makes one last bid for gold medal

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

"Tia de Prerii" KOROR, Palau—The CNMI will attempt for one final hurrah today when the Commonwealth cage belles take on Guam for the gold medal game in the women's basketball competition in the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Gymnasium.

Game time is at 1pm (2pm on Saipan).

The CNMI Women's Nationals will be aiming to defend their gold medal, which they won against Palau during the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan.

For Guam, it will go for a sweep of the competition and a chance to be champion, again after failing to send a team in the 2006 Micro Games.

Guam won all its four games in the elimination round, including an 84-30 thrashing of the CNMI last Wednesday. Guam's closest victory was against Palau, 51-49, and the biggest was against Chuuk, 82-8. The Guam cage belles beat the Marshall Islands by 44 points, 85-31.

The CNMI dropped its first game in the competition, bowing to Palau, 47-64. The defending champions quickly recovered with an 81-14 rout of Chuuk and then had back-to-back wins after topping the Marshall Islands, 79-59.

The Commonwealth cage belles' last elimination assignment was Guam and the former lost, giving the latter a big edge in today's do-or-die match.

Guam advanced to the finals after defeating the Marshall Islands, 83-56, while the CNMI spoiled an anticipated Palau-Guam gold medal game after pulling off a 61-58 upset over the host team.

In the game against Palau, the CNMI waxed hot from downtown, making nine triples and the defending champion will need another good performance from beyond the arc to beat the much taller players of Guam.

Connie Camacho will be the focal point of the CNMI's offense, as she is ranked third among scoring leaders in the elimination round, averaging 13 points per game. She exploded for seven triples and 24 points in their semis win over Palau.

Camacho should get help from Lia Rangamar, Lalaine Pagarao, and shooter Jamie Mendoza to boost the CNMI's title defense bid.

On defense, coach Bill Sewell's wards must neutralize Brianna Benito, who was the tournament's top scorer in the elimination round. Benito totaled 74 points in four games



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Dion Diaz fakes off the defense of a Marshall Islands defender during their game in the women's basketball competition in the 7th Micronesian Games last week at the Palau National Gymnasium. The CNMI will face Guam today in the gold medal game.

and averaged 18.5 points per match.

Another offensive threat for Guam is Kathryn Castro, who along with Benito has been consistently scoring in double figures for the undefeated squad. In four games, Castro compiled 63 points for an average of 15.7 points per match.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Men's Nationals are out of the medal game after placing sixth in the elimination round. Only the Top 4 teams advanced to the finals.

Top seeded Guam was playing the Marshall Islands in the first semis match yesterday, while the other semis pairing had Palau meeting Kosrae.

Wabol wonderful in Pacific Games qualifier

Jess Wabol won the sixth qualifying tournament for par-busters aspiring to represent the CNMI in the golf competition of the 2011 Pacific Games.

Wabol shot a two-over 74 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Taalofo last weekend to get a head start in the race for slots for the 2011 Games set in New Caledonia.

Jeff Taylor came in second with his 76, followed by former Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan and NMASA Hall of Fame inductee Tony Satur. Both came away with 77s.

Steve Jang (78), Tars Olopai (80), Adam Hardwicke (82), Asterio Tawanpiy (82), Jesse Seman (84), Jordan Kosam (86), and Ralph Yumul (86) make up the rest of the 11-player field.

In September, the last qualifying trial will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course. The date and starting times for the

The first time was during the qualifying heat when she timed in at 12.81 seconds, crushing the 12.9-second record she owned. Then in the 100m finals, Bennett clocked in at 12.68, earning her Micronesia's fastest woman title.

Bennett's record shattered the 12.90 seconds Palau's Ngerak Florencio post-

The 44-gold medal haul in Palau was 10 more than the CNMI's output in the 2006 Micronesian Games. The Commonwealth also surpassed its medal output in 1998 when Palau first hosted the Games.

The CNMI collected 36 gold medals, 27 silver and 15 bronze in the 4th Micronesian Games here and incidentally also finished second behind Nauru.

The Commonwealth failed to add a gold medal to its collection yesterday when the CNMI lost to Palau in baseball. Today, the CNMI has a chance for one more gold medal if its cage belles upset Guam in the women's basketball finals.

last trial will be determined later.

Golfers can use the last trial to make up for a qualifier they missed or have they can play it since competitors are allowed to drop their lowest score. The composition of the CNMI National Golf Team will be finalized after the September qualifier.

For more information, contact Wabol at 288-1129, Manibusan at 235-6520, Taylor at 483-2513, or Kosam at 483-4506. (Walter Sutherland)

ed on April 25, 2003 during the Micronesian Athletics Championship.

Bennett and Wong's foes for the top athletes awards have yet to be determined, but they are likely from swimming, athletics, wrestling, tennis, table tennis, and outrigger canoe, where multiple medals were at stake.

CNMI tennis team gave the Commonwealth its last rush of medals with the netters collecting 11, three of which were gold medals, four silver, and four bronze.

The CNMI tennis team, composed of Jeff Race, Todd Montgomery, Bobby Cruz, Mayuko Arriola, Kana Aikawa, Lydia Tan, and Jodel Fernandez completed their competition Sunday and some are expected to stay here in time for the closing ceremony this afternoon.

The baseball team, men's and women's basketball squads, and several members of the athletics team will also join the remaining CNMI delegation to the closing rites at 5pm at the Palau National Track and Field.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	69	41	.627	—
Tampa Bay	67	44	.604	2 1/2
Boston	63	49	.563	7
Toronto	59	52	.532	10 1/2
Baltimore	37	74	.333	32 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	63	48	.568	—
Minnesota	63	49	.563	1/2
Detroit	54	57	.486	9
Kansas City	47	64	.423	16
Cleveland	47	65	.420	16 1/2

West Division

Texas	64	47	.577	—
Oakland	56	54	.509	7 1/2
Los Angeles	56	57	.496	9
Seattle	42	70	.375	22 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	64	47	.577	—
Philadelphia	62	49	.559	2
New York	55	56	.495	9
Florida	54	56	.491	9 1/2
Washington	49	63	.438	15 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	64	48	.571	—
St. Louis	61	49	.555	2
Milwaukee	53	59	.473	11
Houston	47	63	.427	16
Chicago	47	64	.423	16 1/2
Pittsburgh	39	72	.351	24 1/2

West Division

San Diego	64	46	.582	—
San Francisco	63	49	.563	2
Colorado	58	53	.523	6 1/2
Los Angeles	58	54	.518	7
Arizona	43	69	.384	22

Yesterday's Games

St. Louis at Florida	ppd., rain
Colorado 8, Pittsburgh 4	
Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Mets 5	
Atlanta 6, San Francisco 3	
Milwaukee 11, Houston 6	
Cincinnati 11, Chicago Cubs 4	
San Diego 10, Arizona 1	
L.A. Dodgers 8, Washington 3	
Toronto 1, Tampa Bay 0	
Baltimore 4, Chicago White Sox 3	
Oakland 3, Texas 2	
Seattle 3, Kansas City 2	
N.Y. Yankees 7, Boston 2	

BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL PAR SCORES

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Scores Sunday after the final round of the \$8.5 million Bridgestone Invitational at the 7,400-yard, par 70 Firestone Country Club (South Course):

FINAL ROUND

Hunter Mahan (550)	\$1,400,000	71-67-68-64=268	-12
Ryan Palmer (315)	\$840,000	70-68-63-69=270	-10
Retief Goosen (170)	\$412,500	67-66-73-65=271	-9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

for Palau. The CNMI's Justin Alexander was on third and Aughenbaugh on first with two outs, three balls, and two strikes, and Ryan Ada batting. Kalson then threw a pitch, Ada swung, and came up empty, ending the inning.

After the missed opportunity, the CNMI remained scoreless in the next two innings before Aughenbaugh hit the first homer in the 2010 Micro Games at the top of the ninth inning.

Aughenbaugh had a full count and once Kalson released the ball, he hit it hard with his shot going over the left fence near the scoreboard.

However, Aughenbaugh's round-tripper was not enough to start a CNMI rally, as Palau regrouped and tightened its defense, anew, making a double play.

Palau scored the first out when second baseman Avery Amos caught Jesus Iguel's line drive. Ada, who came into bat after Aughenbaugh's homer and singled, tried running back to first, but was tagged out for the second out.

The game

Netters return home from Fiji tourneys



CNMI netters returned home Sunday from their stint in Fiji where they took part in three tournaments—the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, the 2010 Oceania Plate, and the 2010 Air Pacific Oceania Closed Junior Championship.

In the POJC, Commonwealth netters helped the North Team win the championship with 131 total points, breaking traditional powerhouse West Team's nine-year stranglehold of the title. The West Team wound up with 128 points, while the East Team finished with 77 points.

According to Oceania Tennis Federation developmental officer Dan O'Connell, the North Team benefited from a full team of 18 players scoring points, the East Team had 17 players participating, and the West Team only had 16 players earning points.

Fourteen-year-old Thea Minor opted to play in the girls 18 and finished seventh among 12 competitors in the division. She finished pool play with a 3-2 record and then defeated Losana Vosa of Fiji for seventh place.

Rafael Jones, like Minor, also chose to play in the boys 18 despite being just 14 years old and finished with a 0-5 record. He lost to Alex Beddoes of Cook Islands to finish in last place.

Chris Cajigan, meanwhile, compiled a 5-0 record in pool play before losing to eventual champion Torea Bonteman of Kiribati in the semifinals. He then beat C.J. Beg of Fiji to salvage third place. Teammate Carl Dela Cruz finished ninth.

In the girls 14, Melody Johnson and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI netters pose at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport following their arrival from Fiji, where they took part in Pacific Oceania-organized tournaments. From left, Thea Minor, Mikayla Lopez, Christian Miller, Negahr Rastgui, Jake Lee, Chris Cajigan, and Carl Dela Cruz.

Mikayla Lopez came in fifth and sixth, while Negahr Rastgui was third in the girls 12 after beating Vinda Teally of Solomon Islands in the battle for third.

Christian Miller also took third in the boys 14 but only after defeating Geordie Dualaca of Fiji.

In the Oceania Plate, as earlier reported Rafael Jones finished No. 1 in the Senior Boys division with an immaculate 6-0 record in the tournament.

His brother Angelo wound up third in the Junior Boys after losing his semifinal game against Torea Bonteman. He then beat Matthew Stubbings for third place.

Johnson was not as fortunate in the Senior Girls, as she lost all her seven games in the eliminations and playoffs.

Rastgui finished fourth in the Junior Girls after losing to Anastasia Tapasua in the battle for third.

Dela Cruz, for his part, rebounded nicely from his forgettable POJC performance by coming in second in the Boy's division.

In the Air Pacific Oceania Closed Junior Championship, Ji Hoon Heo won his first round match against Aussie James Frawley, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

The CNMI's No. 1 player, however, couldn't build up on his win against the tourney's No. 8 seed after losing to New Zealand's Chris Simich, 6-4, 7-5, in the second round.

Heo also found some success in doubles, as he and partner Alex Hamilton of New Zealand won their first match before losing their next one.

Minor, meanwhile, lost her first two games before beating Tahiti's Alexi Saintly Molotii in their consolation match, 7-6 (5), 6-2. (*Saipan Tribune*)



WALTER SUTHERLAND
Champion team Marianas Pacific United, in grey, poses with Matanza, in white, after the finals of the CNMI Korea Amateur Sports Association Cup 2010 last Sunday at the Oleai Track and Field Grandstand.

Mariana Pacific United wins 2010 KASA Cup

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

 Marianas Pacific United reigned supreme in the CNMI Korea Amateur Sports Association Cup 2010 after beating Matanza via penalty shootout in the finals last Sunday at the Oleai Track and Field oval.

Mariana Pacific United challenged Matanza and after a tied score, 1-1, at the end of regulation, the former won the penalty shootout 6-5.

Listed in the B group, MPU defeated Wild Bill's Independents, 5-0, to advance to the second round. Mariana Pacific United's Jo Miller scored a hat trick and his teammates Nick Swain and Dae Min Jeon each added a goal.

Matanza brushed off K. Juniors, 6-0,

in group A to make it through the first round of the tourney. Matanza's Santa Kumur Tamang scored three goals and his teammate Dhiraj Singh Chherti scored twice. Another player scored for Matanza as well.

Then after shutting out Tan Holdings FC, 3-0, in their first match, Inter-Godfather's came up short against Mariana Pacific United, 0-1. Jo Miller found his way to the net again in this one.

Korean Chinese defeated K. Seniors, 3-0, but were then shut out in the second round by Matanza, 3-0. Matanza's Chherti, Yan Hua, and another player netted a goal apiece in the contest.

Mariana Pacific United won their division and Matanza advanced to the final because they scored three more goals than the K. Seniors throughout the first two rounds.

After the championship game an awards ceremony was held in the grandstand where the Korean Football Association of Saipan president Jung Soo Choo and Northern Mariana Islands KASA president Jae Ick Hwang were present.

Trophies were handed out to the first and second place teams along with \$200 to Mariana Pacific United for the championship victory and \$100 to Matanza for their runner-up performance. Notably, Mariana Pacific United's Caleb Arriola was presented with the most valuable player trophy.

The format of the tournament awarded winning teams with three points, one point to each team for a draw and zero points awarded for losses. Game play consisted of two 25-minute halves with a five-minute break in between.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Janece Mae C. Salas, center, poses for a photo after her practice with members of the Mesa Community College Thunderbirds in Arizona.

Janece Salas earns MVP nod in Arizona

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Janece Mae Crisostomo Salas made her home islands proud after recently winning the most valuable player award of the Triple Crown Tournament U14 division in Tempe, Arizona.

The 16-year-old, who left Saipan in 2008 to pursue her dream of playing fast-pitch softball in the mainland, earned the MVP nod after leading Arizona Panthers to the championship of the age group.

This year, the team will move into the U16 division, where they will be competing in even more tournaments.

Salas also recently had the opportunity to practice with Mesa Community College Thunderbirds head coach John Malgradi and his wife Kristen Voak, a pitching coach for the Arizona State University Sun Devils.

The daughter of John Joseph and Samantha Salas, Janece will be a freshman this year at Sunrise Mountain High School in Peoria, Arizona. She already is planning to try out for the school's softball team.

Apart from leading her team to the 14-and-under championship and earning MVP honors in the process,



Salas also has just completed a very busy year having played in three different leagues.

She played her last season of middle school ball with the Apache Warriors as a shortstop and cleanup batter. Salas also suited up for Team Red in the Arizona Girls Softball Spring League, where she again played shortstop, third base, and cleanup batter.

On top of this, she also plays year-round for the Arizona Panthers where she has been utilized at shortstop, third base, second base, and batted either at lead-off or in the cleanup position.

Salas looks up to Jennie Lynn Finch, star pitcher for the USA softball team that won the 2004 Summer Olympics gold medal. In college, Finch played for the University of Arizona Wildcats.

Salas started playing Little League baseball with a boys team back in 2002 in Radcliff, Kentucky and has resided in Peoria since 2005.

She has an older sister, Julia Margaret, and younger brother, John Joseph. Her grandparents are Francisco DLG Crisostomo, Julita C. Crisostomo (Sinbon), the late Jose T. Salas, and the late Margarita V. Salas.

Bud Light Dart League continues

It was the Thursday B Fanihi and Thursday B Flame Tree leagues turn to start the Summer/Fall 2010 season of the Bud Light Dart League last Thursday.

Buddies Boyz B took the early lead in the Fanihi division after racking up 11 wins against four loses in their debut against The Flair Sand Baggerz (4-11).

Sande's Top Shooters, VFW No Fear, Buddies Salbahe Brothers, Naked Fish Barracuda, Buddies Naughty Boyz 2, and IT&E Kamote's are all tied from second to fifth place with identical 6-9 win-loss standings.

D'Pirates IDK 2, meanwhile, is lording



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E Kamote's players pose during their debut in the Thursday B Fanihi League of the Summer/Fall 2010 season of the Bud Light Dart League Thursday night.



Mahan wins at
Firestone, earns
Ryder Cup spot

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Netters return
home from Fiji
tournaments

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Rezne, Yvonne nominated for top awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KOROR, Palau—Swimmer Rezne Wong and sprinter Yvonne Bennett were the CNMI's nominees to the Most Outstanding Male and Female Athletes awards that will be decided at the conclusion of the 7th Micronesian Games today.

Wong's name was submitted to the Micronesian Games Organizing Committee yesterday, following his 13 gold medal "Tia de Prei" haul in the swimming competition. Wong also won one silver medal. The 19-year-old swimmer's 13 gold medals were the most by any athlete who competed in the region's gathering of top athletes in 15 disciplines.

In the first day of the swimming competition at the Palau National Swimming Pool in Meyungs, Wong got off to a jackrabbit start, winning three individual medals and two in relays. He topped the individual medley race, the 200m breaststroke swim, and the 100m butterfly event.

In relays, he teamed up with Kai Staal and Kensuke and Shin Kimura in giving the CNMI the gold medal in the 4x50m medley relay and 4x200m freestyle relay.



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On Day 2, Wong notched three more gold medals, prevailing in the 100m freestyle and 200m butterfly, and powering the CNMI team to a first place finish in the 400m freestyle re-

lay. On Day 3, he ruled the 400m individual medley and 100m breaststroke, and then led the Commonwealth to a gold medal win in the 400m medley relay. He also won the 50m butterfly.

In the final day of the swimming competition, Wong reigned supreme in the grueling 5-kilometer open water swim in the waters off the Palau Pacific Resort.

If Wong was the king of the

pool for the CNMI, Bennett was the queen of the track for the Commonwealth.

Bennett won gold medals in the 100m, 200m, and 400m runs and anchored the CNMI women's team to a first place finish both in the 4x100m and 4x400m relay runs.

Of Bennett's three wins in individual running event, she

See REZNE on Page 26

Sluggers fall short in medal game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KOROR, Palau—The CNMI after all advanced to the finals of the baseball game in the 7th Micronesian Games, but failed to defend its gold medal game after bowing to host Palau, 3-7, yesterday at the Asahi Ball Field.

The 2006 Micro Games champion, which faltered in its first attempt to make it to the finals after losing to Palau on technicalities in the semifinals last Saturday, earned a rematch against the host, following a 6-3 win over Guam Sunday night.

Facing undefeated Palau and its ever supportive crowd, the CNMI committed several defensive errors in the first few innings and could not get its offensive game going to allow the host to dictate the momentum in the gold-medal match.

Not even a solo homer from

See SLUGGERS on Page 26



Members of the CNMI baseball team tip their hat to the spectators after bowing to Palau, 7-3, in the gold medal game yesterday at the Asahi Ball Field.

Palau out of reach in medal race, NMI assured of second

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

the second spot going into today's closing ceremony.

Palau, pending the results of women's and men's basketball, fast-pitch softball, and volleyball, has earned 53 gold medals, 43 silver, and 30 bronze after Day 9 of the competition.

See PALAU on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Juan Maratita tries to tag out on third base a Palau runner during their gold medal game in the baseball competition in the 7th Micronesian Games yesterday at the Asahi Ball Field.

IT&E
Life in Motion

7th Micro Games MEDAL TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Palau	53	43	30	126
CNMI	44	22	25	91
Marshalls	19	18	18	55
Guam	17	23	22	62
Yap	13	11	14	38
Pohnpei	11	15	19	45
Chuuk	8	7	8	23
Kosrae	0	0	12	9

IT&E supports our local athletes!